

**Precision Clutch Components**

Sales: Simon Davis, Shaftesbury Road, Henstridge, Templecombe, Somerset, BA8 0PP

Prices on application

Tel: 01963 362484 Fax: 01963 364146  
E: precisionclutch@aol.com  
www.precisionclutch.co.uk



Call any member of the team on 01202 894080 to get exclusive MMOC discount across a range of vehicle parts and accessories!


We also offer cycle parts and accessories!



UP AND OVER GARAGE DOORS AND SHUTTERS LTD

Garage Door Repairs, New & Used Garage Doors Supplied & Fitted in Dorset, Hants, Wilts & Surrey

Call Frank on 07949 913373 or 01202 523334  
www.upandovergaragedoorsandshutters.co.uk



ESM - Partners with & distributors for Morris Minor Centre (Bath) Ltd

www.morrisminors.com

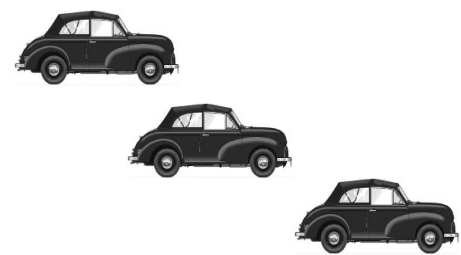
Old Factory Buildings, Battenhurst Road, Stonegate, Wadhurst E.Sussex, TN5 7DU. Parts: 01580 200203



**KINSON TYRE SERVICE**

01202 573698 / 576653

1469 Wimborne Road Northborne Bournemouth BH10 7BQ



**Old Autos**

Old, Interesting and Classic Cars in any condition

**BOUGHT AND SOLD**

Paul 07890 096907, Ken 07814 385781  
old\_auto@yahoo.co.uk

Open Friday and Saturday or by appointment  
Unit 1 & Compound C Parley Wood Business Park  
Barrack Road, West Parley, BH22 8UB

**FPCS**

**FAIR PRICE CLEARANCE SERVICES**

COMMERCIAL/HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTIONS

HOUSE/GARAGE CLEARANCE, VEHICLE RECOVERY  
CONTACT: STEWART:07950 114960  
Or email: infofpcs@aol.com

**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 the Membership Secretary of your **MMOC membership number** and renewal date and make sure that you sign the attendance sheet at the clubnights. Thanks.



**THE MMOC MONTHLY MAGAZINE**



August 2023 Vol.26 issue 8  
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 Clubnight is an opportunity to meet the other enthusiasts and enjoy a presentation or other activity organised by the Committee.

**Membership currently costs £12 per year—£15 for joint membership.**

### Dorset Branch MMOC Key Contacts

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

##### Chairman

Laurie Blewer

01202 522673

Laurie.blewer@dorsetmmoc.co.uk

##### Secretary

Ian Chivers 07779581837

ian.chivers@dorsetmmoc.co.uk

##### Treasurer

Jacky Wood

01202 573494

##### Branch Membership Sec.

Brian Ford

07502161535

brian.ford@dorsetmmoc.co.uk

##### Spares/Web Editor / (dep. Ed)

Brian Wood

07411116336

brian.wood@dorsetmmoc.co.uk

##### 'Display Designer' & Branch Magazine Editor

Roger Kellow

drkellow@ymail.com

07845768120

sandkbrown@hotmail.co.uk

##### Karon Brown (Health and Safety)

##### Hon. President John Jenkinson

01202 576690

#### NON COMMITTEE VOLUNTARY POSTS



##### Raffle Coordinators

Chris Tilley & Margaret Pateman

##### Branch Insurance Consultant

David Walker

##### Gardening Comp Sub-committee

Marilyn Kellow  
Sue Cooper  
Martin Harris

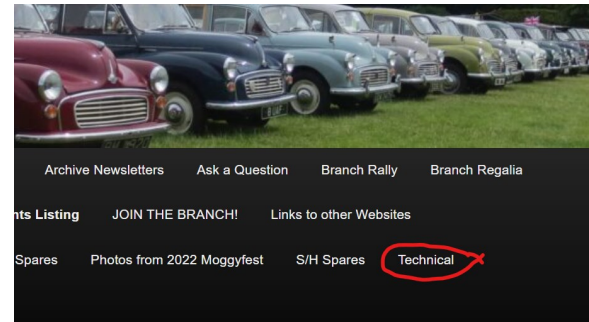
### FRONT COVER

**National MMOC Rally**  
**(Ian Chivers' Traveller at Chateau Impney)**



**\*Print Deadline\* to ensure inclusion for any item within September Edition please:-  
Sunday 23 August 2023**

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



#### Reference Charts etc

- Brake Master Cylinder exploded diagram
- Brake pipe specifications
- Brake pipe specifications (LCV)
- Chassis/Vin prefix codes
- Distributor Serial number chart
- Drill/Tap sizes
- Gearbox Mount Orientation
- Gearbox part numbers
- Minor Appraisal Form
- Minor Servicing Checksheet
- Nut/Bolt thread size chart
- UK Registration Codes
- Workshop Manual

#### Instruction Sheets

- Accuspark Electronic Ignition
- Alternator fitting instructions
- Brake light switch conversion instructions
- Disc brake kit (FORD)
- Disc brake kit (GRUMPY)
- Flasher unit wiring diagram (4-Pin)
- Hazard Warning light kit supplementary guide
- Indicator cover instructions
- Indicator Stalk Repair Instructions (for part number SWT101A)
- Two speed wiper wiring layout
- Workshop Manual

#### General Maintenance Articles

- Axle Oil Leaks
- Brake System Overhaul
- Buying Guide (Minor)
- Buying Guide (Traveller)
- Buying Guide (Convertible)
- Carburettor Adjustments and Overhaul
- Electronic Ignition vs Points
- Front Suspension Overhaul
- Gauges Guide
- Gearbox Rebuild (by Geoff Taylor)
- Rocker Covers
- Silicone Brake Fluid (from Minor Matters)
- Thermostat Maintenance
- Wheel Cylinder Replacement

To those of you who are computer 'savvy' have a look at our Branch Website, you will find (right at the bottom) a tab entitled 'Technical'. This a useful resource for maintaining your Minor and contains short

articles or reference material which is meant to assist with the most common jobs on your cars.

If you cannot find something or you have any suggestions as to material



that might usefully be included, please let me know.  
Brian.



## NEXT CLUBNIGHT

Annual Gardening competition.



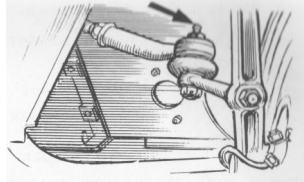
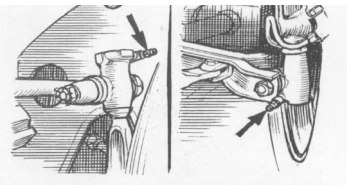
## In This Months Issue...

REGULARS	SPECIAL FEATURES
EDITORIAL, p.4	Editor's Inbox & News Desk p.5
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT P. 8	Brian's National Rally Report p.12-13
SECRETARY'S REPORT P.6	Ian's National Rally Report p.14-17
FORTHCOMING EVENTS LISTING P. 18	Gardening Competition p.20-21
UPCOMING EVENTS p.19	Branch Website Update p.23

## 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



### Suspension Leg Trunnion Seals

These are now available as a 'car set' with 4 of each type to allow replacement of all the upper and lower trunnion seals on your car. Normal price would be £48 but the cost for the set is only **£39.50**



### Indicator Stalk Repair Kit

We can supply a new indicator stalk end to replace broken ones which house the green repeater light. £6 each



Point smartphone camera at code to go to the fitting instructions



**CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNT** Dorset Club Spares give paid up members the benefit of a 10% discount on Morris Minor Spares (unless not already on offer, or a discount from the club's supplier is not available) Spares parts available from Club Spares Manager **BRIAN WOOD**.

### Dorset Branch Members-It's Your Magazine - It's Your Club !

**\*\*The Editor encourages and welcomes any written contributions - particularly loaned (or emailed) photos please of topical interest, from the branch members suitable for inclusion.**

**\*Please submit, if possible, any material or advertising matter, within 10 days prior to the next monthly club night date. (\*Inclusion within the next available published newsletter is subject to space, as it approaches the next respective monthly publishing deadline.** The Dorset Branch MMOC will accept no liability in respect of goods or services provided by advertisers : No recommendation is implied : Any views expressed or advice given within the newsletter is offered in good faith and no liability is accepted by the Dorset branch or the MMOC for any consequences arising from following such material.

# Editorial

Hello everyone, it's me again. Unfortunately Roger has not been very well over the past month or so, with a spell in hospital. The Club has sent a get-well card and we understand that he is slowly recovering. We all hope to see him back with us again soon.

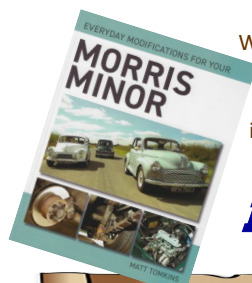
It has been a busy month and the weeks have flown past since the last newsletter, starting with the long weekend at Droitwich for the National MMOC Rally. It must have been good, as there are no less than three detailed reports in this issue. Hot on the heels after that we were away on a 14 night cruise. The day after we came home, there was the Nothe Fort Run. So, there is no shortage of activities this month to report on. The Nothe Fort run was well attended with about 21 cars

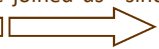


split roughly equally between the MMOC Minors on Tour group and our own branch members.



We were lucky to get reasonably dry and sunny weather too, since as is usual most years, the weather deteriorates when the schools break up for the summer. Don't forget to bring your entries along for the DMMOC Annual Gardening competition next month. (The 'wonky' ones are my favourite!) See page 20-21 for the details and entry classes.



We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new club members—as listed on page 5—who have joined us since February this year. (Thanks to Brian Ford  for that information.)

## Next Month



Book Review 'Everyday Modifications for your Morris Minor And... The Oldest Minor Van in the World—by Laurie

# Garden Show Entry Classes

1. Flowers	Dahlias	One vase of 3 blooms
2. Flowers	Sweet Peas	One vase of 5 blooms
3. Flowers	Mixed Flowers	One vase of any size/type
4. Flowers	One Potted Plant (flowering or foliage)	One potted plant of any size/type
5. Flowers	A 'Perfect' Rose	One specimen bloom any variety
6. Garden Fruit	Any Soft fruit or Top fruit (any dessert fruit in season).	One set of 3 soft fruit or top fruit
7. Vegetables	Runner Beans	One set of 3 beans
8. Vegetables	Round podded beans	One set of 3 beans
9. Vegetables	Potatoes	One plate of 5 of one variety
10. Vegetables	Tomatoes	One plate of 5 of any size or type
11. Vegetables	Cucumber, Courgette, Squash	One of any type
12. Vegetables	Onions, Shallots	One plate of 5 onions or shallots
13. Vegetables	Marrow	The largest in show
14. Vegetables	Peppers/Chiles	Any pepper or chile Set of 3 (or assorted of any type).
15. Vegetables/Fruit (novelty class).	The most unusual or 'wonky' shaped vegetable or fruit.	Any type of vegetable or fruit (May include any New Variety).



**Garden Show September 6 2023**

GARDEN SHOW RULES SEPTEMBER CLUB NIGHT 2023



**EXHIBITORS** - Would Members wishing to enter the show please have their exhibits in place by **8pm**. Please register before placing in selected class. Each exhibit will be issued with a number and cup to be placed next to each item.

**JUDGING** - To commence at **8.15pm**. All members wishing to judge the classes please collect counters from the show table. Place **ONE COUNTER** into the cup of your choice in that class.

**BEST IN SHOW JUDGING** - The 3 Garden Team Judges will select a short list of 3 out of all classes.

**PRIZES:**

*First prize will receive a plaque and a £20 garden voucher*

*Second prize a bottle of wine.*

*Third prize a box of chocolates.*

We are looking forward to seeing lots of flowers and produce - please try your best - we know it is difficult as we are at the end of the growing season.

**DORSET BRANCH MMOC ANNUAL DINNER DANCE 2024**  
**at The DUDSBURY GOLF CLUB RESTAURANT**

**7pm Saturday January 13th**

**(KEEP THE DATE FREE—pricing & menu will be published soon)**



**New Branch Members**

Numbers	Names and Location
863/864	Martin and Janet Swatridge from Bognor Regis.
865	Peter Sears from New Milton.
866	Jane Helfer from Corfe Castle.
867/868	Anthony and Anita Harris from Fordingbridge.
869/870	Ken and Marianas Gratton from Bournemouth.
871	David Thorne from Dorchester.
872	Darren Aldridge from Gillingham.
873/874	David and Anne Mein from West Moors.
875/876	Martin and Sarah Stoker from Bristol.
877	David Arnold from Brighton.
878/879	Julie and Andrew Mackay from Lymington.
880	Angela Gould from Worthing.
881/882	James and Beryl Morris from Parkstone
883	Gary Freeman from Barton on Sea

# Chairman's Report

# UPCOMING



Hi everyone and welcome to the August newsletter. Very many thanks to Brian for putting last month's magazine together at very short notice. Deputy Editor Brian is in the hot seat again this month as Roger is still unwell. I'm told he is recovering well from his recent illness but it is going to be a long process. I'm sure you all join me in wishing him a good and speedy recovery

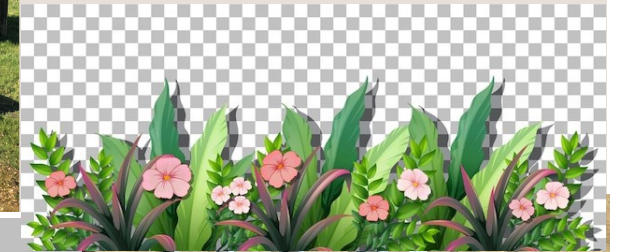
and we all look forward to both seeing him again and to reading his excellent magazines soon.

The month of July was a very busy one on the event front starting, of course, for quite a few of us with The National Rally at Chateau Impney near Droitwich. Ian and I went up in his Traveller for the weekend. Well laden with camping gear etc the car performed well and got us there in 4 hours without touching a motorway once. Ian had mentioned to me a couple of months earlier that with it being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year it would be good if we could make the journey to Chateau Impney using just the roads that would have available in 1948. Well, the Sat Nav was put to bed and we made the journey using only a map, albeit a relatively new one. I have since checked out the route on my 1948 Morris Motors map and we did indeed use the route that we could have done in 1948 so we are very pleased with that achievement. Arriving by mid afternoon on the Friday we set up camp and after a look around the site we set off for The Robin Hood pub for dinner where we met up with Brian and Jacky who were staying at The Premier Inn opposite. Steve and Karen were camping next to us so they hitched a lift to the pub with Ian and I where we all had a very nice meal. We awoke on the Saturday to light rain but this soon cleared leaving a nice day. Ian cooked up a smashing breakfast and we were ready for the day ahead. We left the cars on the Dorset Branch area on Branch Avenue and headed off to check out the autojumble area where I managed to pick up quite a few bits I needed for the 4 door – namely chrome items. I would much rather use decent old chrome rather than the new the stuff which only seems to last 10 minutes before it is rusty. There was a brilliant selection of Minors on site with some of my favourites being the extremely rare Domi Van from Norway and the fabulous 1953 Series II van which I have written about elsewhere for next month's newsletter. It's amazing how far

*(Continued on page 7)*



The Branch Annual Rally at Wolvercroft World of Plants at Alderholt will be held on the weekend of August 19-20 (Main show is on the Sunday) There will be a scenic run on the Saturday afternoon. If you would like to attend you don't need to book, however, we would like a booking form from you if you intend to camp overnight. The forms are now available on the Branch Website under the Events listing.



We have arranged a club run to Sherborne on Sunday October 8th to visit the Sherborne Antiques Centre run by Phil and Craig. We plan to arrive at Sherborne at 11:00 and will arrange a meeting place for those who want to go in 'convoy' - to be confirmed nearer to the time. Refreshments will be laid on (sausage and bacon baps) and tea and coffee will be available. There is no charge, but we would like to know how many are coming. Please fill in the entry form which is currently on the website Events page and return to Jacky by 4th October clubnight.



## Forthcoming Club Events

02-Aug	<b>BRANCH CLUBNIGHT</b> -Talk by Graham Melly on the Early days of the Dorset Branch
06-Aug	Lymington Classic Car Show. Book direct with Rotary Club Lymington.
13-Aug	MG Owners Club (1020) Athelhampton House. Contact MG club for booking forms (£10 per head entry fee)
19-20-Aug	<b>DORSET BRANCH ANNUAL RALLY</b> at Wolvercroft World of Plants, Alderholt. Camping Fri and Sat - booking req. if camping - form on website.
Aug-26	Wings and Wheels - 9:00 at Henstridge Airfield, Templecombe BA8 OTN
Aug-28	South Coast Classics (at Karting Centre (CCOTP are the organisers)
1-3 Sep	IOW Branch Rally at the Havenstreet Railway Centre. Book ferry through Wightlink using 15% discount code.
2-3 Sep	BEAULIEU INTERNATIONAL AUTOJUMBLE
06-Sep	<b>BRANCH CLUBNIGHT</b> - Annual Gardening Competition - see article in this newsletter
22-25 Sep	Sidmouth Holiday Run
24-Sep	SIMPLY BRITISH CLASSICS - Beaulieu. Booking through Beaulieu but let Laurie know so that we can park together.
04-Oct	<b>BRANCH CLUBNIGHT</b> - Annual General Meeting
08-Oct	Sherborne Antiques Centre Run
01-Nov	<b>BRANCH CLUBNIGHT</b> - Toy Donation Talk from the Variety Club (details TBA)
06-Dec	<b>BRANCH CLUBNIGHT</b> - Noggin and Natter and Baby photo competition
13-Jan	2024 ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE

*(Continued from page 6)*

some people are prepared to drive to attend The National with cars coming from as far as Norway, France and Germany to name but a few. There was also a good smattering of club members on site from much further afield with a lot of our American friends being in attendance. I have been friends on Facebook with John Voelker from New York for a long time but it was very nice to finally meet him in the flesh.

Outside the Chateau itself there was a brilliant selection of “significant” vehicles from Morris history. Ranging from a beautiful Bullnose Oxford right up to the last vehicle to wear the Morris badge which was actually a badge engineered Metro van. Amongst these vehicles, of course, were some very special Minors. Starting with the first Minor off the line – NWL 576 – this 2 door MM saloon was discovered by Morris Motors back in 1960 when they held a competition to find the oldest Minor still in regular use. The prize for the lucky owner of NWL 576 was a brand new Minor Million! Next to this amazing car was the fantastic MM Tourer belonging to Ray Newell. After this was the actual Millionth car – MHU 1 – and then number 1,000,0001 belonging to Martin Stoker from the Bristol (and Dorset) Branch. You may remember this car from Moggyfest 2022 as the left hand drive Million which was originally displayed at The New York Motor Show. Moving along to the next Minor we were lucky enough to have the last ever Minor saloon built which currently belongs to the MMOC and has been the subject of a full and very thorough restoration. Ian and I were taking the weight off our legs on the comfy seats in front of the Chateau when I happened to look up and see Philip Serrell from the Antiques Road Trip looking at the cars. I couldn’t help myself and introduced myself to him. He turned out to be a really nice guy and was very interested in the history of our cars. He is a car enthusiast himself with both him and his wife being involved with pre-war Aston Martins etc. All too soon Saturday was coming to an end and we made our way to the tent, freshening up in the showers before a barbeque. The evening entertainment in the main marquee was a Beatles tribute act who were very good. Some of the raffle prizes were extremely good but unfortunately by the time my number came out the prize was a bottle of screen wash!

Sunday arrived, thankfully dry, and we started again! In all, over the weekend about 750 vehicles were in attendance. Several other Morris Vehicle Association member clubs were also there including The Morris Register, The 6/80 and MO Club, The Wolseley register and The Landcrab Club to name a few. Another trip round the autojumble saw the purchase of a pair of rear wings which I had no chance of fitting in the back of Ian’s Traveller but luckily Carlo and Julie were

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Chairman's Report-contd

(Continued from page 7)

there and he kindly brought them home for me in the back of his van – thank you Carlo. Miranda, the Marie Curie car was busy in the main ring performing her duties as the blindfolded driving challenge car. We weren't brave enough to take part but well done to all who did. The final event of the day was the presentation of the prizes for the vehicles entered into The Footman James Concours event where there were some truly spectacular cars on display. All too soon that was it and everyone started departing for home. We had decided to stay another night so it was off to the pub again for our dinner joined by Brian and Jacky only this time as Steve and Karen had already set off for home.

After an early start packing the tent away on Monday morning we headed to McDonalds in Droitwich for breakfast where we met up with Rosie and Sandy Hamilton who were about to start their taxi duties for the overseas visitors needing to get to the station. Another 4 hour drive saw us back in Bournemouth after an extremely enjoyable weekend. Thank you Ian for your company and your cooking – both were brilliant!

What else has happened, let me think? I hope those of you who attended the Burton Scout Carnival and The Broadstone Family Fun Day had a good time and thank you to those of you who came along on 15<sup>th</sup> to help me support the Holdenhurst Village Fair. The weather was extremely windy meaning all the stalls were set up between the church and the village hall but a small but select group of you turned out with your cars which I thank you for. I'm hoping to liaise with them much earlier next year and try to arrange a much bigger classic car section.

Last months club meeting at The Den was very well attended and I hope enjoyed by all who came along. Thanks to those of you who brought their Morris' along and provided some excellent photo opportunities for the owners of The Den who, by the way, loved having us there and have said we are welcome back again any time.

The club run to Nothe Fort in conjunction with the MOT UK Group was a very well attended and enjoyable event. The Fort itself is an extremely interesting place and well worth a visit if you've never been. I have had a thank you from the MOT UK organisers who really enjoyed the day.

Don't forget the club stand at The Lymington Show on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and The MG Club event at Athelhampton on 13<sup>th</sup>. This month also sees our, now annual, visit to Wolvercroft Garden Centre for the Dorset Branch Rally. Ian and I will hopefully have had time to prepare a road run for the Saturday afternoon and you are welcome to join us for this from about 12:30. We hope for a good turnout for the main rally day on the Sunday where we also pray for fine weather.

I think that's enough from me for this time as I seem to have wittering on for ages!  
Happy Minorng, Laurie.



Ian preparing Ian and Laurie's staple diet for the weekend.

Brian were able to liberate a few from their room at the Travel Lodge. We had a look around the traders and stalls again buying a few more bits. Laurie had bought a pair of rear wings, which obviously weren't going to fit in my car for the trip home!

He had persuaded

Carlo to bring them back in his van. They did still end up in the back of my car though at the next club night! Meanwhile, Brian had spotted a very good engine oil deal on the ESM stand, he assured me that there was plenty of room in my car for a couple of boxes (8 x 4.5l cans) for the club spares. There was a blind driving competition that none of us were brave enough to enter, sorry Deputy Ed, no embarrassing photos from Dorset members driving over traffic cones! We had a very enjoyable day looking around all the cars and displays, chatting to the owners of a few very interesting cars that we'd not seen before. There's more about these in the other rally reports. After the prize giving, we sat by the tent watching the cars leave, before we headed off to the pub for Sunday dinner. This time the exit gate was open, and it led to a set of traffic lights which was great for getting out onto the main road.

Quite a lot of people stayed over on the Sunday evening as well. Monday morning, we packed up the tent and emptied out the car to strategically pack it all in! I hadn't envisaged bring more stuff back than I went with, but we just about managed to get it all in 2 boxes of oil and all Laurie's purchases. We headed off to the local McDonald's for breakfast before re-tracing the route we took up, this time I drove the first leg down to Marlborough.

This was only my 2<sup>nd</sup> ever trip to a National Rally, it was much better than the previous one I attended which was in Surrey near Gatwick. I think the location was great and it was a nice drive there and back. We'll wait to see where next years is, but I think that 4 hours driving is about as far as I'd want to go.



## Secretary's Report

the gate was shut. This meant navigating our way back through the site the way we had come in, it wasn't easy turning right onto the main road at the entrance. The meal was very nice, and we decided to book in again for Sunday dinner too. Before the trip I wasn't sure if I wanted to stay over Sunday night and come back Monday morning or head home late Sunday afternoon when the rally had finished. I think we made the right choice to come back Monday, it meant we could take our time. When we



Cars parked on the Dorset 'Branch Avenue' stand.

got back to the site Friday we ventured up to the marquee where there was a pub bus and a live line dancing act.

The noise from the main road was constant all night, although it wasn't that loud to disturb any sleep. Saturday morning, we had a fry up for breakfast and then set off to look around the traders & stalls. Laurie was on the lookout for parts his latest restoration project, however I had to make sure he didn't go too overboard as there was limited space in the Traveller for trip home. I bought a chicken noodle lunch from one of the food trucks which was very nice, we had a look in the regalia tent and

bought a few things including a celebratory pin badge. We parked our cars up on Branch Avenue, where Laurie had reserved us a space. It was fun watching some of the cars trying to drive up the hill on the wet grass, a few didn't make it and slid back down again. All the displays were fairly dispersed across the site. The pickups and vans were at the bottom of the hill and were the only display I didn't get to look around.

Although there was very little rain over the weekend it was very windy. Saturday evening, we had a BBQ behind a wind break before heading up the hill for the evening entertainment. There was a Beatles tribute band interspersed with a raffle and auction, which was difficult to hear from the back of the marquee.

Sunday started with the customary fry up again. By this time, I was starting to run low on supplies of tea bags and coffee, thankfully Jacky &



The usual flow of events is that we have a committee meeting and then the following weekend is deadline day for this report to go into the newsletter. However, this month due to holidays, deadline day is before the monthly committee meeting. I'm pretty sure that the top item on this month's agenda will be the Dorset Branch Rally at Wolvercroft. I can also say with some certainty that a high priority will be the planning of the road run for Saturday afternoon. I remember we had some very good feed-

back from last year's run, which considering we planned it in the dark and even managed to get lost was some achievement. Please do come along and support us if you can, even if it's only for a short stop. The garden centre is a great place to look around and the Sticky Bun Tea Rooms serve excellent meals.

Whilst we were away at the National Rally, some members went along to the Burton Carnival. I hope you all had a good day out! We went along to support the Holdenhurst Village Fete, which due to high winds had moved inside the village hall and church. If they had pitched up on the green, most of the gazebos would have simply blown away! Thankfully I managed to track down Judy's Jams in the church to stock up on marmalade. We also enjoyed some sandwiches, tea and cake in the village hall.

We arranged to meet up with the MOT-UK group at the Nothe Fort in Weymouth, where we'd been given special permission to park up within the walls of the fort. I was taking my brother and niece with

(Continued from page 9)

me who are here on holiday, so I couldn't make it to the meeting point at Upton Country House on time. Somehow, despite leaving late I still managed to get there before Laurie. I had taken the most direct route along the A35, whereas Laurie had taken a more scenic and congested route. I've never visited the Nothe Fort before, it's a very interesting place with lots to see, never mind the collection of old Morris Minors parked up. Although, we did provide an extra attraction for the visitors. We had to vacate by 3PM as they had another event that evening.

It's a busy month for me, kicking off with the Lymington Show after which I'll be away paddling for a couple of weeks returning just in time for the Dorset Rally and finishing off with the Henstridge show.

Ian.



Nothe Fort photos sent in by Mike Sargeant



Laurie gets a selfie with antiques celebrity Philip Serrell

ing at Droitwich Spa. Before the trip I was joking about only taking roads that were around in 1948, having managed to avoid the motorways I think we achieved it. Laurie checked the route we took on an old map he had and aside from some roads being widened into dual carriageways agreed. It took us

about 4 hours in total and half a tank of petrol, we arrived about 3pm. We were greeted at the gate and did our best to follow the signs to rally control, where we were checked in and directed to the camping field. The rally pack included a nice wooden key ring with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary embossed on it. On entering the camping field, we were advised to pitch away from any trees or overhanging branches, this rather distracted me from the more pressing issue of clearing pinecones from where the tent was going! It was like treading on Lego that you couldn't see all weekend. Before we put the tent up, we made some tea, someone kindly took my 5-litre water container up the hill to the water tap and filled it up. Laurie realised that he'd left all his cutlery and mug at home. Luckily, he managed to scrounge a set from a nearby caravaner for the weekend.

The first 'Production' Morris Minor which now lives in the British Motor Museum.

The site was basically on a hillside, camping at the bottom and everything else including the water tap was at the top. There was a land train that ran constantly throughout the day up and down the hill, which we used several times.

Friday evening, we had dinner at the local pub which was a short drive down the A38. We followed the signs to the exit but found



# MMOC National *by Ian Chivers*

## Photos from Laurie Blewer

Some of the Dorset 'Team' checking out the 'Lashings of Gravy' in the local hostelry.



Friday morning, I picked up the car, checked the oil and water then filled the tank with E5. Went to Tesco for supplies, then packed up camping gear which never seems to get put away this time of year. Made a call to the insurance company to add Laurie onto the policy, which cost more in administration fees than the additional cover.

After picking up Laurie we decided upon a route and with the map in hand set off. I drove the first half up through Salisbury and onto Marlborough where we stopped off for lunch. Half of the way we followed a horse box which was by far a lot slower than us! I feared it was going to Cheltenham on the same route as us, but they pulled off just before Marlborough. Coming down the steep hill into Marlborough gave my brakes a jolly good workout to the point there was noticeable brake fade. A fully loaded car and drum brakes all-round doesn't stop going down a steep hill, I think going down the gears and using the engine to brake was more effective. After a Greggs lunch Laurie took over the driving and I navigated our way up through Swindon, Cirencester and Gloucester ending up on the A38 passing through Tewkesbury and Worcester before arriv-

## Photos from MMOC National and Nothe Fort





This year's Morris Minor Owners Club annual summer gathering was held at a new venue this year. It has been at Kelmarsh Hall for a number of years and a change of venue was made for this year. It was the former home of the annual Hill-Climb event which some of you might have heard of. These events ran from 1957 until 2019 and this was subsequently discontinued (like many other things!) after the Covid outbreak. It was built for John Corbett, who had become wealthy through the salt industry, in the style of a French Chateau for his homesick French wife, and bears the date 1875. It was opened as a hotel in 1925—(which also closed down in 2020 due to Covid). Apparently, it was suggested to the organising team that the Sunday competition could be a re-run of the hill climb. Whilst that would have undoubtedly been fun, insurance and health and safety concerns prevailed. Over the weekend, however, the grounds were attended by up to 700 plus classic cars (mostly Morris Minors). The display areas were more than usually spread out, due to the hilly nature of the site so a layout plan was helpfully provided. We took a leisurely drive to Droitwich on Thursday and stayed 4 nights in the local Travelodge—where a few other owners were staying also. As usual it was a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and immerse oneself in the world of Morris Minors for a few days. We liked the South Cheshire Branch efforts for the themed



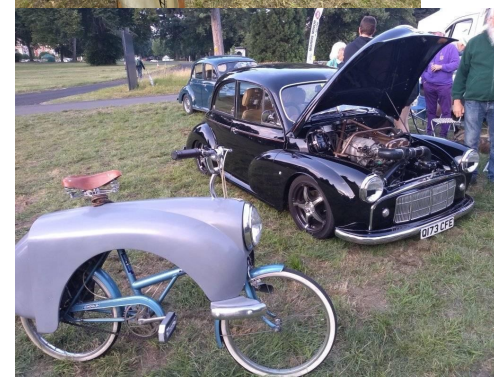
leisurely drive to Droitwich on Thursday and stayed 4 nights in the local Travelodge—where a few other owners were staying also. As usual it was a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and immerse oneself in the world of Morris Minors for a few days. We liked the South Cheshire Branch efforts for the themed



The locally built Minor DOMI van from the Netherlands attracted Laurie's interest



Branch Avenue. The 'Fred and Wilma' costumes were brilliant and won the prize for best branch stand. I think Laurie was trying to see if the 'DOMI' van would fit in his garage.



There was truly something for everyone there, will all variations of Minors and plenty of overseas visitors. There was also a very good line up of Morris cars through the years (a 'Timeline'). We saw what was claimed to be the oldest Minor Van in the UK. It was presented in its 'as found' but fully roadworthy state and Laurie has taken a detailed look at it for a future article.

People sometimes forget how much behind-the-scenes work goes into organising these shows—so well done to the MMOC National Rally Committee and grateful thanks for all your hard work. Brian