

Dorset Branch



THE DMMOC MONTHLY MAGAZINE



December 2023 Vol. 27 issue 2

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 £15 per year—£20 for joint membership.

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Branch Insurance Consultant

Gardening Comp Sub-committee



Chris Tilley & Margaret Pateman

David Walker

Sue Cooper
Martin Harris

FRONT COVER

Xmas shopping early

***Print Deadline* to ensure inclusion for any item within December Edition please:-
Sunday 26 November 2023**

Dorset Branch Newsletter

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

Volume 27 Issue 1 November 2023



NEXT CLUBNIGHT

Is the December Club Noggin and Natter

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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.***

Chairman's Report



Hello everyone and welcome to the last newsletter of 2023. Looking back over the year we have had a brilliant year of club events and can now look forward to another busy calendar of events for 2024.

I would like to thank you all for the amazing number of toys that were brought along at the last club night. Plans are now coming together for Moggyfest 2024 and the forms have now been finalised and should be with you soon. I think I have now managed to sort out all the vehicles for the display in the marquee. I'm sure you will recall that I recently wrote an article about the 1953 van belonging to Jonathan Evans and he has shown interested in bringing it along. It should make for an interesting contrast between Carlo's van and his, completely unrestored version. As we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Traveller and LCV we would like to encourage the wearing of period dress again please this year it will be 1953.

For those of you who follow me on Facebook or were at November's club night will know I have had a slight altercation with the angle grinder whilst working on the 4 door resulting in me slicing through the back of my left hand and severing the tendons in my thumb.



Whilst I have had an operation to put me back together it has left my left hand out of action for 8 weeks whilst it heals. This has meant work on the car has almost ground to a halt.



Dad has been out and finished off the cutting out of the metal on the drivers side floor and hopefully by the time you are reading this Terry will have been round to do the required welding for me before we turn the car the other way on the roller and start again on the passenger side.

Well, I think that's enough from me for this this time, so have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – see you on the Mistletoe Meander.

Happy Minorng – Laurie.

Secretary's Report



So here we are another year gone and it's Christmas again, hopefully there'll be some very happy children receiving gifts that were donated from last month's meeting. Frances from Variety posted a message of thanks on Facebook for all the gifts and the £145 collected on the night. I've managed to send a contribution to Branch News of the national Minor Matters

magazine, it was several days late (See it's not just you Ed!), but I did get a reply of thanks so hopefully it will make it into the next edition.

I hope that everyone who attended the skittles and quiz nights at the Hamworthy Club had a good time, not sure about the results but I'm sure they would have done the Dorset MMOC proud.

Thanks to Brian Tilly for organising a fabulous coach trip to the Classic Car Show at the NEC. We stopped off for a 15-minute break at Chieveley Services on the way up, just enough time for a quick comfort stop and a Gregg's bacon roll & coffee. Or so I thought! With a couple of minutes to spare I got back to the car park where to my amazement I saw the coach pulling away! Thankfully after a shout from Brian & Stewart Wood it stopped to let me back on.

I hope you all have a very good Christmas and New Year, it's not too late to get some last-minute stocking fillers from the spares department.

We all get a break in January from the newsletter.

I must apologise to the Editor for the very late submission of my report, if only it was worth holding the press for!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Ian.

P.S. My lovely wife is singing in this event cheeky advert

A promotional poster for a Christmas festival. The top half features the text 'A Christmas Festival WITH THE Broadstone Community Concert Band' in a mix of fonts. Below this, it says 'Saturday 9th December at Wimborne Minster - 7:30pm start.' and 'Tickets £10 each'. The bottom section contains logos for 'BONE CANCER' and 'DORSET'S AFC', along with ticket sales information: 'Cash Only Ticket Sales from: Square Records 14 Wimborne High Street, Wimborne Parish Office, Church House (open 10am to noon Mon to Fri only), or at the door on the night.' There is also a small URL at the bottom.

Editors Report



Hope all your preparations are under way for Xmas. As for me have carried out yearly maintenance on Trixie our 1966 Almond Green Traveller.

This included new poly-bushes for the rear suspension. Whilst I renewed the bushes I also striped and cleaned the Armstrong shocks and

refilled with motor cycle fork oil. Also changed the diff oil which was very black indeed.

Joy and I made a return trip to Bletchley Park as we had annual membership . Unbeknown to us it also coincided with the annual use of the Enigma machine to decipher code sent from Italy. Joy was chosen to help in this decipher very lucky to get such an opportunity.

We also attended Scramblers meet at Bicester air-drome first time for us . What a great event such a wide variety of cars . Also very interested to see the restoration companies based on the site.



Quite an array of Morris's to..

It only goes for me to say have a Happy Xmas
Peter

Contact email :- dmmoceditor24@yahoo.com

THE 'BRIAN WOOD' REPORT ***and latest news from the Spares Dept.***



It has been a funny old month in the Wood household. We started out with intentions of reducing our cars from 5 to 4. However, our 'eagle-eyed' Chairman (in his current state of reduced classic car activity) spotted a certain Lilac Minor for sale in the current edition of *Minor Matters*).

It turned out to be the Minor Million which has history with the Dorset Branch.

The following day (Sunday) Laurie and I took a drive to Banstead, in Surrey to look at it and I ended up buying it.

So having not sold the Honda we now have 6 cars to store!

The Dorset Branch clubbed together and raised some money to buy the same car (EOS 444) in 1990 and restore it as a club project. It had been unused since at least 1980 having been bought for restoration but just stored. In 1993, when completed, it was sold to a branch member, Peter Challen who subsequently advertised it in *Minor Matters* and sold it to Paul Bonner in Surrey in 1997. Whilst a few of the restoration 'team' lamented the loss of the car to the Branch, we resolved to encourage someone in the branch to buy it back should it ever be offered for sale again. (Be careful what you wish for).

It arrived mid-November and it is in pretty good condition, having had some £3k of work done a couple of years ago. There are one or two mainly cosmetic items to attend to, so I made a list. I told the vendor that I would get rid of the cross-ply tyres in favour of radials and his response was "OK but don't put a V8 engine in it!" I will refrain from any 'modifications' which might detract from its originality but I think I will fit an extending bonnet stay and seat belts, as we feel a bit vulnerable without them. It has got a fully documented history with it, including the original log-book and the tax discs from when the Branch restored it up until when the DVLA stopped issuing them. The MOT's, servicing and parts receipts were all saved by the previous owner and have now been sorted into a viewable file.

I have been tasked with writing up an article on it, which some of the older members of the Branch will surely remember. As the Editor has a month off in January, I have got a bit of time to do it.

It just remains for me to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous Minor new year.

That's about it for 2023, bye for now, see you in February. Brian.

Graham Has All The Gear



Having thoroughly rebuilt my engine from top to bottom, I then had the gearbox to sort out.

On the 903cc and 948cc engine the gearbox was called a smooth box due to the casting of the outside casing.

I had three 803cc gearboxes to choose from and it eventually was the earliest box from my car that had reasonable parts, especially the reverse gear which doesn't get a lot of wear.

The shaft for this gear is 11.5 mm as opposed to later 803cc ones of 14mm. You find out about all these odd things.

Having cleaned all the parts and filthy casings in paraffin, I started to locate as many new old stock parts and was fortunate to buy a new 3rd and 4th lay gear from Bryan Gostling of the National Club spares.

Also first layshaft, synchro gears and all the other parts needed for the rebuild to go ahead. I had the ever so helpful Brian assist on some of the process as he has rebuilt 24 or so boxes. There is an excellent 40 page guide by Geoff Taylor that can be downloaded from Andrew Bywaters site at Mirabelle Classic Parts.

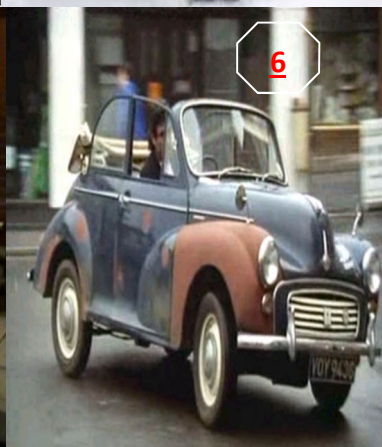
I then spent many hours sanding and rubbing down the casing to a super finish and after all parts were assembled, two coats of lacquer to seal the aluminium surface.

Next time the engine and gearbox go in and the rear suspension gets stripped down and rebuilt again.

Graham Melly (Looking forward to the next episode ED)



Quiz Time name the tv programme and the celebrity. Answers Page



Trip to N.E.C. classic car show

On the 10th of November 23 of us went by coach to the Lancaster Insurance Classic Car Show at the N E C. We went with Heathside Travel driven by owner Tim. We were dropped off right outside the main entrance. Once inside we all went off in our own little groups for the rest of the day. There were approximately 3000 cars on display and representation from 350 clubs including the MMOC and also the young owners MMOC. It was a long day and there was a lot to see. I think most of us were pretty tired by the time we got back to the coach for the journey home and I hope everyone enjoyed the day Brian Tilly



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

7pm Saturday January 13th

The Menu for the evening has now been finalised and is listed below . Forms will be issued with the newsletter (October) and is also available on line at:
<http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk/wordpress/admin/dindanceticket24.pdf>

The cost will be £35.00 per head for the three course meal including tea and coffee and one free drink voucher per person, plus entertainment.

Starters:

Prawn, crab and avocado Gateaux (on a bed of mixed leaves served with brown bread)

Leek and Potato Soup (finished with chopped chives)

Melon Cocktail (served with a raspberry coulis)

Main Course:

Baked fillet of Cod (with a fresh tomato and cheese crust)

Roast Tenderloin of Beef (served with a Yorkshire pudding and red wine gravy)

Roast vegetable spinach and vegan mozzarella Wellington (served on tomato and basil sauce)

Desserts:

Black Cherry and Brandy Crème Brûlé (served with a shortbread finger)

Sticky Toffee Pudding (served with home made toffee sauce and custard)

Seasonal Fruit Salad (with fresh cream)

**MMOC Mistletoe Meander
Saturday 30th December 10:30
At the Southern Electricity Club
£8.50 per person**

Including Sausage and Mash gravy and a hot drink.

Time to dress up your cars and show them off to the folks of Dorset.
Laurie and Ian will be planning the route shortly more news to follow.

Editors In Box & News Desk

As you all know, tonight I was planning on doing the children's photo competition but unfortunately, I still don't have enough pictures to really make it worthwhile. If it's alright with those of you who have lent me pictures, I will hold on to them until I have enough. If you haven't dug out a picture, can I please ask you to do so and I will endeavour to put the competition together for a club night in 2024.
Laurie

I have just heard from the organisers of the Sidmouth Classic Car Show with the date for 2024. It will be held on Saturday 21st September. As you are aware a group of us went down this year for the first time and it was an excellent show. We also stayed the weekend at The Royal Glen Hotel in Sidmouth and had a great time so if you would like me to organise another weekend there next year please let me know. We will be staying there as we love the place.

We are looking at getting a limited supply of new club regalia in so if you are interested in a new shirt, sweatshirt or something else please let us know.

We are not going to get a huge stock in though as it does tend to hang about for a long time

Following on from our successful trip to France last year we will be planning another trip in June next year . There are six couples already signed up . If you would like to join us then please let me know. More about last years trip in January as I will be presenting a small talk on our adventures.

Thanks Ed

Answers:-1 Antique Road trip Anita Manning and Mark Stacey.
2Some Mothers do have em Micheal Crawford.
3Wheeler Dealers Mike Brewer and Marc Priestly 4 Call the mid-wife Linda Bassett Jenny Agutter. 5 Open all hours Linda Baron
Ronnie Barker Love Joy Ian McShane

Branch Event News

Urgent Urgent Urgent
Please note on the green members card on the
reverse needs to read

LCV70years

Not

LCV70

Apologies from the committee

30-Dec	Mistletoe Meander
01-Jan	Classic Cars on Poole Quay
03-Jan	Clubnight Talk DMMOC invading France Peter French
13-Jan	2024 ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE
07-Feb	Clubnight Talk
06-Mar	Clubnight Talk
03-Apr	Clubnight Talk
6-7 April	CCOTP - Organford
21-Apr	Swanage Charity Day
18-19 May	Moggyfest Autojumble Beaulieu
15-21 June	DMMOC adventures in France
30th June	Gaydon MMOC
24-Aug	Henstridge Wings and Wheels
13-15 Sept	CCOTP - Harmans Cross
12-13 Oct	CCOTP-Organford

For Sale and wanted



Mike and Enid Smith say goodbye to their beloved Gertie.

Off to new owner in Bognor Regis.

However Mike is now looking for a good condition 2 door Morris year after 1965. Mike is not going to purchase until the New year but keep your ears open for a good one. Price in the range of £5000.



FOR SALE

Paddy Hopkirk Boot rack.

This rack has all the fittings plus the rare rubber luggage straps. Very good condition £70 phone Pete 0784961842



Fortnum and Mason

4 person wicker picnic basket. This is an unused item with contents still wrapped in their delivery packaging. These sell for £200 asking £80

Phone 07849618482.

Not everyone is a Nice person

Unfortunately we are beginning to hear of more stories of classic vehicle items being stolen. We have had a Traveller taken then burnt out and now we have just been told about the following occurrence.

Please ensure that wherever possible your items are secured . Take pictures both inside and out for reference purposes. Also try and have surveillance to record the deed if it does happen

Branch Member Mike Tompkins who lives in West Parley had his car broken into in early November, whilst parked on his drive. The quarter light catch was pulled open from outside and parts were removed from the engine. The parts missing were the H2 carburettor and the 'tear drop' style air filter. Nothing else was taken. Mike reported it to the Police but it is highly unlikely anything will result from that. If anyone has information, Mike would be pleased to receive it. Brian managed to find a replacement oil bath filter and carburettor but both need to be refurbished.



Brake Brake Brake

Well how often have you heard those immortal words “are we going to stop” when driving our Morris's around the country lanes. Well our illustrious spares department have done it again..

Brian has a set of refurbished 8” Backplates, springs and adjusters which will replace the 7” front brakes on a standard 948cc Morris. This is a good way of improving your brakes without going down the Disc Brake route. When replacing any braking parts it is advisable to check your brake shoes and also any ancillary parts to make sure they are in good order.

Remember the Spares Department can provide the majority of parts you might need

They are only one email away, also the pricing is very competitive.

The cost is £35 which will be donated to Community Aid for Ukraine



Julia's House Charity Event

We have had a letter thanking everyone who attended the Julia's House charity event held at the Blewer house on the 16th July.

Monies donated reached a magnificent amount of £900 +.
A big thanks from Sue Blewer'



Visit by Variety on November club night

Whilst banking monies at NatWest Bank at Castlepoint for the Panto collections last December 2022, I met one of the Managers, Laurie Blewer who asked me where all the money (90% coins) was coming from as I had many trips to the Bank. I advised Laurie it was proceeds of Panto collections from the Pavilion Theatre.

During my next trip to the Bank Laurie asked me if I would like to provide a talk to The Morris Minor Club of whom he was Chair. The Club members wished to provide Xmas presents to underprivileged children during Xmas 2023.



Last night, Judy and I attended the Electric Club in BH8 to provide the talk to about 60 members, some of whom were husband and wives who each bought a Xmas present which was placed on tables for us to take away at the end of the evening . .

Thank you very much Laurie for having invited us to provide this talk about the work that we do as a team of volunteers and for the wonderful Xmas pressies for many of the children that we support. Also for the fantastic collection of £145 which they collected on the night.

Frances Cornelius



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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 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.