

Dorset Branch



THE DMOC MONTHLY MAGAZINE



November 2023 Vol. 27 issue 1
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 £15 per year—£20 for joint membership.

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Branch Insurance Consultant

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Chris Tilley & Margaret Pateman

David Walker

Sue Cooper
Martin Harris

FRONT COVER

75 Anniversary of Morris Traveller Remembrance day

***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.***

Editorial



Hello and welcome to the first Editor's report from me.

First a huge thank you to Brian Wood for looking after the editor's role as well as his other committee duties at short notice to cover for Roger.

For me taking on the position from Roger means I have big shoes to fill. Roger's tenure as editor has been historic his enthusiasm and commitment to the club has been an example to us all .

Well who am I, I ask that of myself

quite often as I get older.

Name Peter French wife (boss) Joy French.

Work wise spent many years in the film TV and print industry developing and producing visual effects equipment.

Second career owned a Hotel in Mid Wales near Aberdovey.

Owned a restaurant at Lytchett Matravers.

Now retired..

Always been involved with classic cars my first car was a £12 Austin Somerset then Minis including Coopers.

Have always had Triumph TRs but when I started to crawl out of the sports car went immediately to Morris.

What great cars, easy to work on!! Huge range of spares still available, and to top it all, a great club which is inclusive even to those without a Morris.

Well, enough about me.

Please feel free to email me with any items you might feel of interest to other members.

Items can be :- events, items for sale, trips you have made in your car, etc.

The subjects can be as varied as we are.

Contact email :- dmmoceditor24@yahoo.com

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** (Individually £12 each pr)



Indicator Stalk Repair Kit

We can supply a new indicator stalk end



to replace broken ones which house the green repeater light. £6 each



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

7pm Saturday January 13th

***** (ENTRY FORMS NOW AVAILABLE) *****



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>

Please return your slips by DECEMBER CLUBNIGHT.

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 Brulee (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.

Entry slips to Jacky Wood A.S.A.P to avoid disappointment



Chairman's Report



Hello and welcome to the November edition of the Dorset newsletter. This is the first one under the editorship of Peter and I would like to thank him for taking up the challenge and also thank Brian for stepping in and, of course, Roger for the sterling work he did whilst editor. I'm sure you'll be

glad to hear that I have spoken to Roger and his health is improving and he looks forward to the day he can come back to club events and see all his many friends again.

Tonight we should be having a talk by the childrens charity, Variety Club of Great Britain and hopefully you have all remembered to bring along a new toy to enable us to present them with a good selection.

Thank you to Phil and Craig for a superb day out for our club run to Sherborne via the Manor House at Sandford Orcus. The sun shone and a brilliant day was had by all finished off with a superb afternoon tea provided by them at The Sherborne Antiques Market. I would love to make this an annual event and I know that Craig is already planning something for next year.

You have already received your booking forms for the dinner and dance in January and tonight you should have a booking slip for the Mistletoe Meander. Please can I ask that both of these are returned to Jacky asap – thanks.

Looking ahead to next year and Moggyfest 2024 we have taken a change of direction with the theme. We are now going to be celebrating the 70th anniversary of both the Traveller and the LCV – I know we are 1 year late but we couldn't do it this year as we were celebrating the 75th on the Minor in general. This was suggested to me by Bryan Gostling. 2024 is also the centenary of the formation of the Morris Motors Band so we are looking to combine a this within the main marquee display. We are lucky enough to have 2 Series II Travellers and a Series II Van within the branch already which only leaves me on the hunt for a Series II pick up which I already have a lead on – watch this space! As usual we will be encouraging the wearing of period dress. This time it will be 1953.

Terry has now been round and taken a look at the welding required on the 4 door and I am now starting to cut out what he has told me to before he comes back and welds in the new panels as required. He was pleasantly surprised at how solid the car is in general although she looks much worse than she really is.

I think that's enough from me for this month so until next time

Happy Minoring

Laurie.

Secretary's Report



The dinner & dance is available for booking, so please get your completed forms back in, deadline for this is December club night. We have now agreed on the entertainment for the evening. Hopefully Laurie has asked all those in possession of a club trophy to return it so we can get them engraved for next year's winners.

Earlier in the year at Moggyfest, Brian Wood was presented with a trophy from the National Club for his efforts in getting Miranda road worthy. We are going to get this engraved before it's returned to the National Club.

The Mistletoe Meander has now been booked in with the Southern Electric Club and the meal organised. Brian & Jacky won't be around for this one, so Karen has volunteered to take over the clipboard duty. Laurie and I just need to plan a road run now.

The highlight of October was the trip to Sherbourne organised by Phil & Craig. I amended last year's route which went to a car park in town to Sandford Orcas. I think there was a little bit of confusion at one point, but everyone made it down the narrow windy lane to the house where we were welcomed with hot drinks and biscuits. We had a fabulous tour of the house by the current owners, before driving the less windy way back into Sherbourne. After we parked up in the Abbey grounds, several market goers asked us if we were a regular feature of market day! We had time to look around the market and listen to the bands playing in Pageant Gardens before heading to the Antiques Market for a look around and some delicious sandwiches, scones and fizz served up by Phi & Craig. It really was a fantastic 2 days out in 1, they even arranged for weather. There may be another Sherbourne Spectacular next year.

There are few events happening this month, so please check the events page for further details. Hopefully we can put in a respectable performance at the quiz and skittle evenings.

Ian.

The Oxford Bus Museum and Morris Motors Museum

Back in August whilst I was between jobs I promised myself a visit to the Oxford Bus Museum and Morris Motors Museum near Oxford. They are only open a couple of days per week so one Wednesday whilst the children were at school I bit the bullet and made the journey to Long Hanborough near Oxford.

Upon arrival you see straight away a brilliant selection of buses of all makes and ages that were in use in the Oxford area. The highlight in the bus collection for any Morris enthusiast is, of course, the Morris Motors Band bus which was luckily out in the yard being repaired and had just returned from a 30 mile test run. 14 LFC is a 1961 Morris FF coach and was designed and made especially for the band. It has an unusually large boot to carry all the musical instruments meaning that passengers towards the rear of the coach sat over the boot overlooking the roof! The band was formed in 1924 by William Morris as a part of his Welfare Recreation drive and they entered their 1st competition in 1931 winning the Crystal Palace Grand Shield. At the start of the war the band ceased playing but reformed in 1943 to play to the workers to help the war effort. The world famous band leader, Harry Mortimer, took the baton in 1946 and lead the band to many championship wins becoming one of Britain's leading brass bands. They made over 500 radio broadcasts, television appearances and played in many music halls and parks throughout the country until they were disbanded in 1969. Their music lives on though in the many records that they made – obviously I have several of them!

Upon entering the main Morris Exhibition, which was the main reason for visit, you enter the last remaining building from the Cowley works. The main steelwork that can be seen was cleaned, painted and re-erected to form the museum as a tribute to William Morris (Lord Nuffield) for his contribution to the car industry, the people of the City of Oxford, medical research and the many other charities he supported. The first thing you see when you enter is an original Clocking In Machine from Cowley displayed next to a cut away 8hp engine from 1936. Climbing the stairs you are confronted by an enormous collection of Morris memorabilia – I think they might have even more than me! The display cabinets are full of small items such as Morris Hospital Service Association contribution cards, apprenticeship cards, 25 year employment cards and commemorative watches, Morris Motors inspectors badges etc, etc. There are also displays depicting items from the Morris Motors Fire Brigade and the Morris Motors Associated Sports and Social Club. The latter had many arms such as athletics, angling, etc. I have actually got an original Morris Motors angling trophy in my own collection. The carpet on the floor is even original to the Cowley works having been taken up from The Longwall restaurant when Whitbread decided to strip and renovate the building. It has since been discovered that the carpet was made by Wilton as a one off specially designed with images of Morris Minors woven into the design. As well as all of the displays the walls are covered in pictures taken in the factory over many years.

Photo credits: Laurie Blewer,



Heading back down the stairs there is a very impressive but relatively small collection of Morris vehicles starting with a chrome plated 1931 Morris Minor chassis which was engineered for the 1931 Olympia Motor Show and was discovered in an out building at the Cowley works in 1962. It was presented to The Morris Register for safe keeping. Other vehicles include a 1937 Morris 10 which has a fascinating history, a 1935 Morris 8 and a 1952 Morris Z van which was rescued from a disused Baptist Church in Boston in 1994 where it had been laying dormant since 1966. There are, obviously, a couple of original Bullnose Oxfords and even an original Nuffield Tractor which were built at Cowley between 1961 and 1963 before production moved to Bathgate in West Lothian as part of a government employment scheme. A car of particular interest to those of us who live in Bournemouth is Morris Oxford Series MO registration number OLJ 248. This is a very original car having never had any restoration work undertaken which was driven regularly for the first 21 years of its existence before going into semi-retirement in 1977.

If you've never visited the Oxford Bus Museum and Morris Motors Museum I can thoroughly recommend it, even the lunch in the small café was very good and very reasonably priced.

Road Run to Sandford Orcas and Sherborne





Branch News

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

LCV70years
Not
LCV70
Apologies from the committee

Forthcoming Events

16-Nov	Inter Branch Quiz (MGOC event) Hamworthy Sports Club on Magna Road starting at 6pm for 6.30pm
06-Dec	BRANCH CLUBNIGHT - Noggin and Natter and Baby photo competition
30th Dec	Mistletoe run see details on flyer and in mag.
13-Jan	2024 ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE

For Sale and wanted

Just a reminder we have one of the best sources for spares for your Morris.

We are also lucky to have Brian one of the most knowledgeable members to point you in the right direction.

To top it all you also get 10% discount for being a member.

Email Brian for your spares needs.

FOR SALE Morris Minor

Parts:

Radiator—leaking core £10

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Heater take off brass tap £15

Pair of blue/grey front seats £50 pair

Phone Don on 01202 876691 or 07776 214755



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

News from the Spares Department.

NOVEMBER 2023

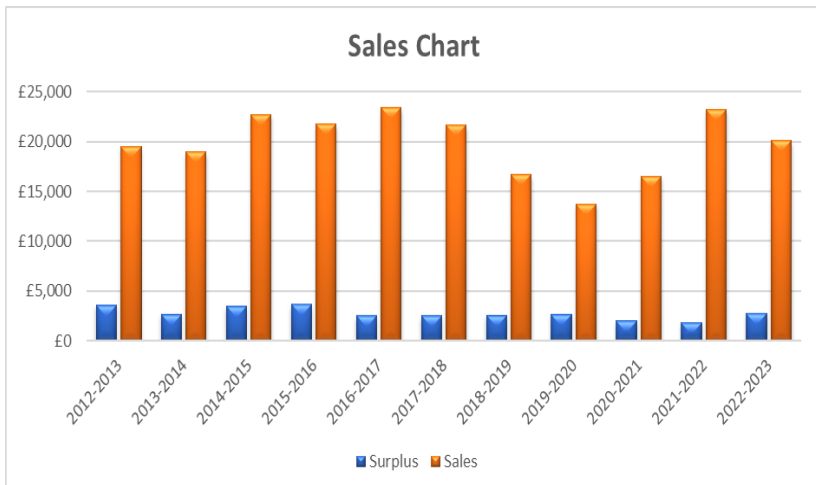
Greetings everyone, and welcome to Volume 27 of the Newsletter. As you will see, Peter French was voted in as Newsletter Editor at the AGM in October and so I have handed over my temporary Editorship for the last 4



issues to him. I am sure he will do a fantastic job with it and hopefully you will all continue to support him with your contributions, big and small. That leaves me with just my old job as Spares Manager. We have been offering the new spares service for some time now and the chart below shows the previous 11 years of trading. It shows a

fairly consistent level of activity and the surplus indicated by the left-hand column seems to be fairly steady. About the only thing that can be inferred from this chart is the significant dip in activity during the covid years – although it did seem to be taking a bit of a dive prior to that period.

Parts prices have increased dramatically over the last year or two – so it might be reasonable to deduce that a constant level of financial activity would reflect a lower physical volume of sales due to the increased unit costs. We currently have stocks of some high value items which don't sell particularly quickly but could be considered as 'investments' against future price rises. For example, we have some unleaded exchange cylinder heads which have been in stock for a while and are now well below the current ESM prices.



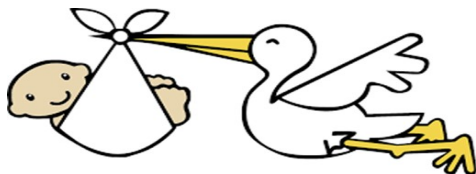
Jacky and I went to the 70th Anniversary event for the Traveller which was held at the Great British Car Journey museum near Derby on 1st October. I was reliably informed that there were 68 Minors including 55 Travellers. Unfortunately, it was a bit far for us to go in our Series 2 Traveller but there was one other exactly the same as ours (but a bit older). We had the opportunity to have a look around the excellent museum. (From the 'blurb') *The Great British Car Journey is a car museum in Ambergate, Derbyshire, England. It opened in May 2021. The museum's exhibits consist of over 130 cars that illustrate the history of British car design and production between 1922 and the present day.* It is laid out in decades and traces the rise and fall with stories about particular makes and models. You get an audio guide which also has additional stories about particular cars' histories. Well worth a visit if you are up that way. There are also about 40 odd classics that can be driven – however this has to be booked in advance and they only have certain days allocated for this. (Sadly 1st October wasn't one of them). Still, we had a good day and it was well worth going.

Bye for now, Brian



Editors In Box & News Desk

Long-term Branch Member, MIKE POPE, has become a grandfather (again!). On 8th October 2023 a baby girl (Cecilia) was delivered to his daughter. She weighed in at 8lb 9oz.



Congratulations from all of us in the DMMOC.

Just to let you know that Mike Smith has had an operation. ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB, THE COMMITTEE HAVE SENT HIM A CARD . I AM SURE Enid is spoiling him. He is not going out yet but hopes to in the coming days. Here to a speedy recovery. ED

Reminder

Bournemouth & Poole MG Owners Club is this year hosting the automotive inter-club general knowledge quiz. It will take place on the evening of Thursday 16 November at Hamworthy Sports Club on Magna Road starting at 6pm for 6.30pm. It is free to enter a team (of up to six people) or teams, we just ask each team to bring a prize for a raffle to help raise money to finance the hire of the room. There will be a prize for the winning team. Please let me know if you would like to enter a team or teams. Any questions feel free to ask. Chris Adamson
email: chris@1020mg.org.uk
Tel: 01202 424781

Shed But not buried

Some of you will be aware that we have members of the club who support the committee and in doing so, support you.

This is a big shout out to Dave and Jacky Walker:- Dave and Jacky kindly store some of the DMMOC items on there property. Dave has recently painted the shed to maintain its condition.

Dave also uses his trailer to transport items for the clubs to events like our rallies and to Beaulieu.

Thanks Dave and Jacky , ED





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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.