



## Minor Message series 2 no. 18 Hartwells Minor Van by Steve Chater



Photo: Steve Chater

I am very fortunate to house-sit in Bourton on the Water several times a year. I have been doing this for the last 20 years. When I do this there are usually several maintenance jobs to stop me being bored, although being short of things to do in Bourton on the Water is not usually a problem.

When I need materials for the maintenance tasks, one of the places to go is Hartwells Hardware Shop. This is like going back in time, an old-fashioned hardware shop, and in addition to the period charm, David Barker the proprietor owns two Morris Minor vans. One is usually parked outside at the front of the shop.

On one of my visits back in 2010 a "new" van appeared outside the shop. In place of the usual red van there was a very good looking Old English White one. I thought I recognised the registration number from a van featured in a magazine called *Minor Monthly*. When I asked David, he confirmed I was correct.

In the March 2009 issue the van was featured as "Grafters Window Cleaning Services", owned by Jay le Huray of Southampton. It is a 1962 Minor and Jay purchased it from its previous owner in Sussex. It had been in its previous ownership for 30 years, but for the past few years had been in dry storage. The magazine article did not state the year when Jay bought it.

Jay used the Morris for his window cleaning activities in and around Southampton until late 2008, when due to the loss of his storage facilities he decided to sell the Minor.

The new owner, a Phillip Mold from South Warwickshire, purchased the van to use for his carpet cleaning business. Whether it was ever signwritten in the name of "Able Carpet Cleaning" I am unable to confirm.

For reasons unknown, Phillip sold the van in 2009 to David at Hartwells. Shortly after the purchase David had to replace the engine as the original had become very tired.

David uses this Minor alternately with the red one for regular duties including of course to advertise his business, and they both fit in very well with the period charm of Hartwells Hardware.

If you visit Bourton on the Water, there is a very good chance either of the vans will be outside the front of the shop.

Steve Chater, August 2020



Photo: Minor Monthly, March 2009