



MINOR MESSAGES 2

Meeting Jack Daniels at the Poole Rally, 1998

by Roger & Liz Briance



Alison Shailes (Briance) meeting Jack Daniels

It was probably one of our first rallies when Alison, Liz and I joined the Dorset Branch for their rally in Poole in 1998. We drove down in convoy and stayed the night in a nice B&B in Poole eager to soak up the rally atmosphere.

We met a lot of lovely people, some who stayed in contact and attended our NWMMOC rallies as well. I remember there were a few fun items on the agenda including an 'Egg and Spoon Race' where the driver had to have an egg on a spoon out of the window whilst driving an obstacle course!

The highlight of the rally however, was when we met and spoke at some length to Jack Daniels. At this time Jack was getting on in age but still had a sharp memory. For those who are unaware, Jack Daniels was Alec Issigonis's 'right hand man'. The following is taken from his obituary in the *Guardian* in 2004:

"Issigonis relied crucially on Daniels's ability to take his brilliant, impressionistic sketches and turn them into dimensioned engineering solutions - a process which gave Daniels considerable discrete control over interpretation and execution. When their Morris Minor was released in 1948, reviewers enthused about road holding and controllability that was 'streets ahead of virtually any other production car'."

In conversation Jack was telling us, among other things, that he designed the 'underneath', the suspension, steering, brakes etc. I asked him if he ever owned a Minor. He said no, but the factory was always giving him cars to try out!

To get the rare chance to meet and talk to one of the original designers of the car that we all love was one that will remain with us forever.