

# CARFEST NORTH

Charles Ware's Morris Minor Centre attends Chris Evans' CarFest North



Traveller poses a retro picnic scene



## Words & Pics Zac Ware

**T**he Proclaimers were invited to play Chris Evans's Carfest on the 9th and 10th of September. Zac Ware (Charles Ware's son who has been playing electric guitar with the band for 7 years and is also working at the centre) took the opportunity to get a stand there at the same time. The weather treated the show really well and it was beautiful sunshine all weekend. The stall was well placed in the Auction field, next to the Ferraris and Lamborghini's. We had a lot of people come up and say that they preferred seeing our Morris to all the fast cars, the antidote to the petrol head bias of the show. The car we took was a 1969 Morris Minor Traveller rebuilt to the customer's specification. Freda Chapman had it resprayed Porcelain Green (an early Tourer colour) and a complete interior trim in Porcelain Green duotone and including duotone series 3 front seats. She upgraded the engine to a 1300 marina engine with a sierra 5 speed gearbox. There were also heated rear windows, alternator, disc brakes and servo, and reverse lights added. Zac had the pleasure of meeting Chris

Evans on the night of The Proclaimers concert and told him of his Morris Minor connection. Chris came to visit the stand on the Sunday morning and had a look around the car. He commented on the beautiful wood and paint job and said he was impressed by the quality. He was very interested in the gearbox and engine upgrades and was impressed by the 'extra poke' this would give the car for motorway driving. When asked if he'd had Morris's in the past he said that he had had lots. Though he doesn't have one at the moment. We asked him about his appearance with a Morris on Top Gear many years ago and he laughed and said that's because the girls would never think a "bad boy" would drive a Minor.

Gilly Pollock from The British Plant Nursery Guide (who uses our cars for the Chelsea Flower show) provided her vintage china and props as well as some plants to liven up the stand and give it the impression of a Sunday afternoon picnic. Which provided some light relief to many people overwhelmed by the high tech presentation of many of the other stands.

All in all it was a very good weekend for the Morris Minor. As usual there was a very warm feeling towards Morris Minors from owners, customers, ex owners and many people who had never owned Morris' but loved the style and expressed their wishes to own one in the future. ■



Chris Evans, The Proclaimers (Craig & Charlie Reid) and Zac Ware