

CHARLES WARE'S 35TH

Minor legend to celebrate anniversary at a blooming good show

Charles Ware's Morris Minor Centre will celebrate its 35th anniversary on May 25 2011 with a visit to the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show where one of its rebuilt Minor Travellers will take centre stage in the Guide's Garden. Owner Charles, along with son and marketing director Zach were also at the Bristol Classic Car Show in April – the first time the company had attended a show for several years.

In 1976, when the company started in Bath, there were an estimated 250,000 Morris Minors on the road in the UK (the are now only 14,000 with another 6000 on SORN). However, the Centre still employs 23 people with a combined experience of over 300 years.

In April 1991 The Durable Car Company, making Morris Minor body panels, started as a joint venture between Dhanapala Samarasekara and

Charles Ware after Dhana saw an article in *The Guardian*. The factory, in Sri Lanka, uses traditional panel beating skills and employs local

people. It continues to supply the centre's parts department and workshops. After being damaged by a tsunami in 2004 Charles Ware helped pay for the rebuilding of the factory.

The company is still producing its ever-popular Series III Minor cars and kits which incorporate a brake servo, five-speed "box, 1300cc engine, modern upholstered seats and other tweaks. Visit www.morrisminor.org.uk for more information.



Charles and Zach Ware at the Bristol Classic show.