

1953 Morris Minor Van at start of Covid-19 Lockdown



**Work begins – Dashboard starts to go in
Handbrake now fitted
Steering column fitted**



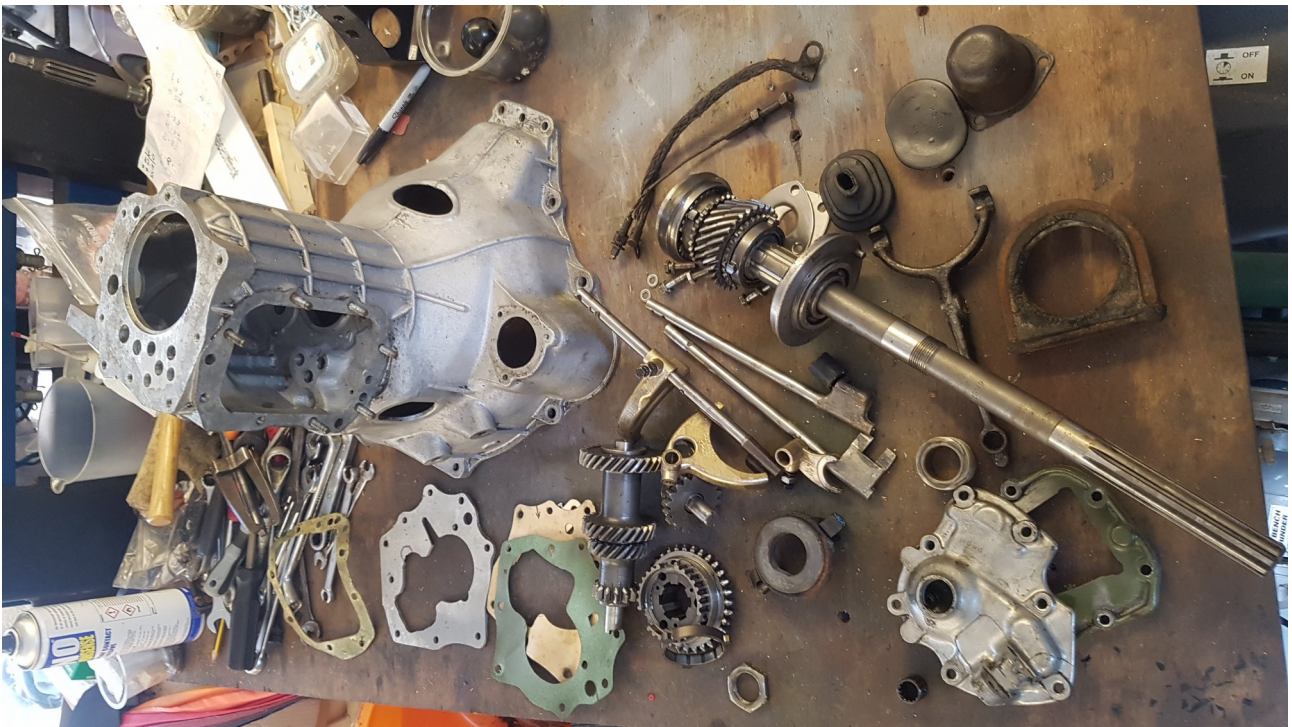
Engine requires pulley, water pump, oil filter, dynamo, starter motor, flywheel, clutch etc.



Brakes & suspension are overhauled and rebuilt

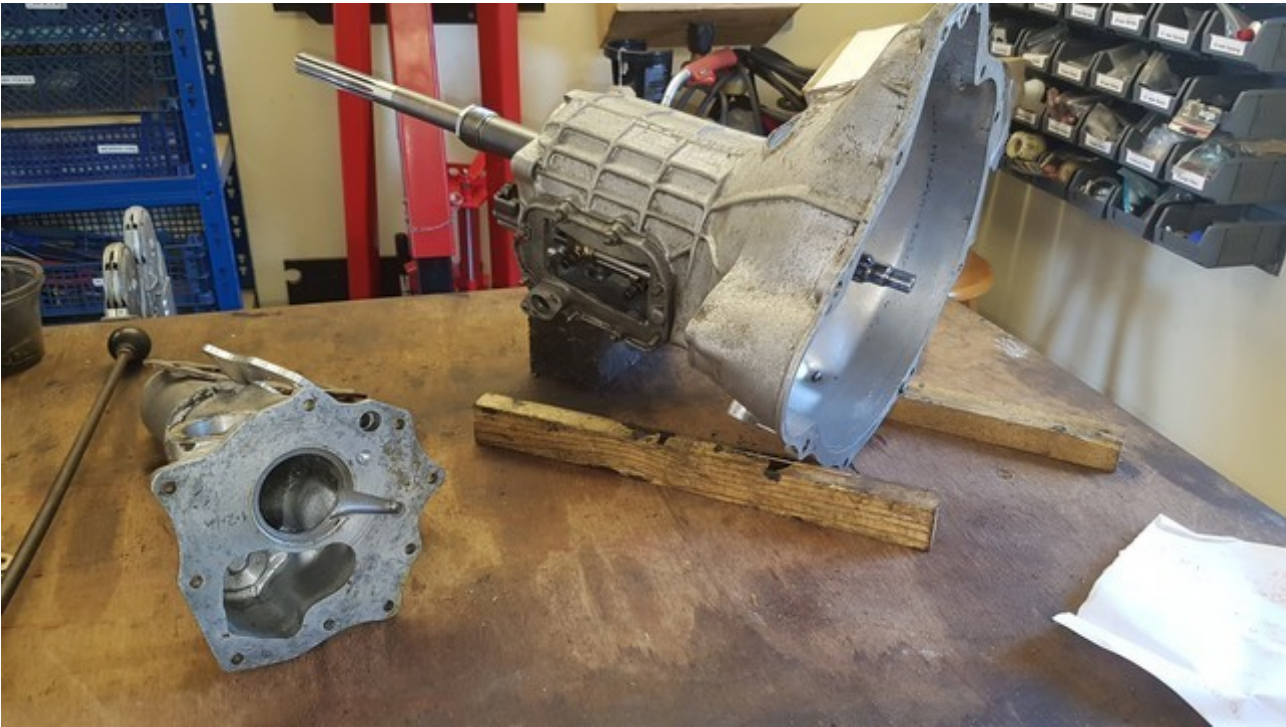


All rear lights are converted to LED
Rear flashers are installed below bump stops

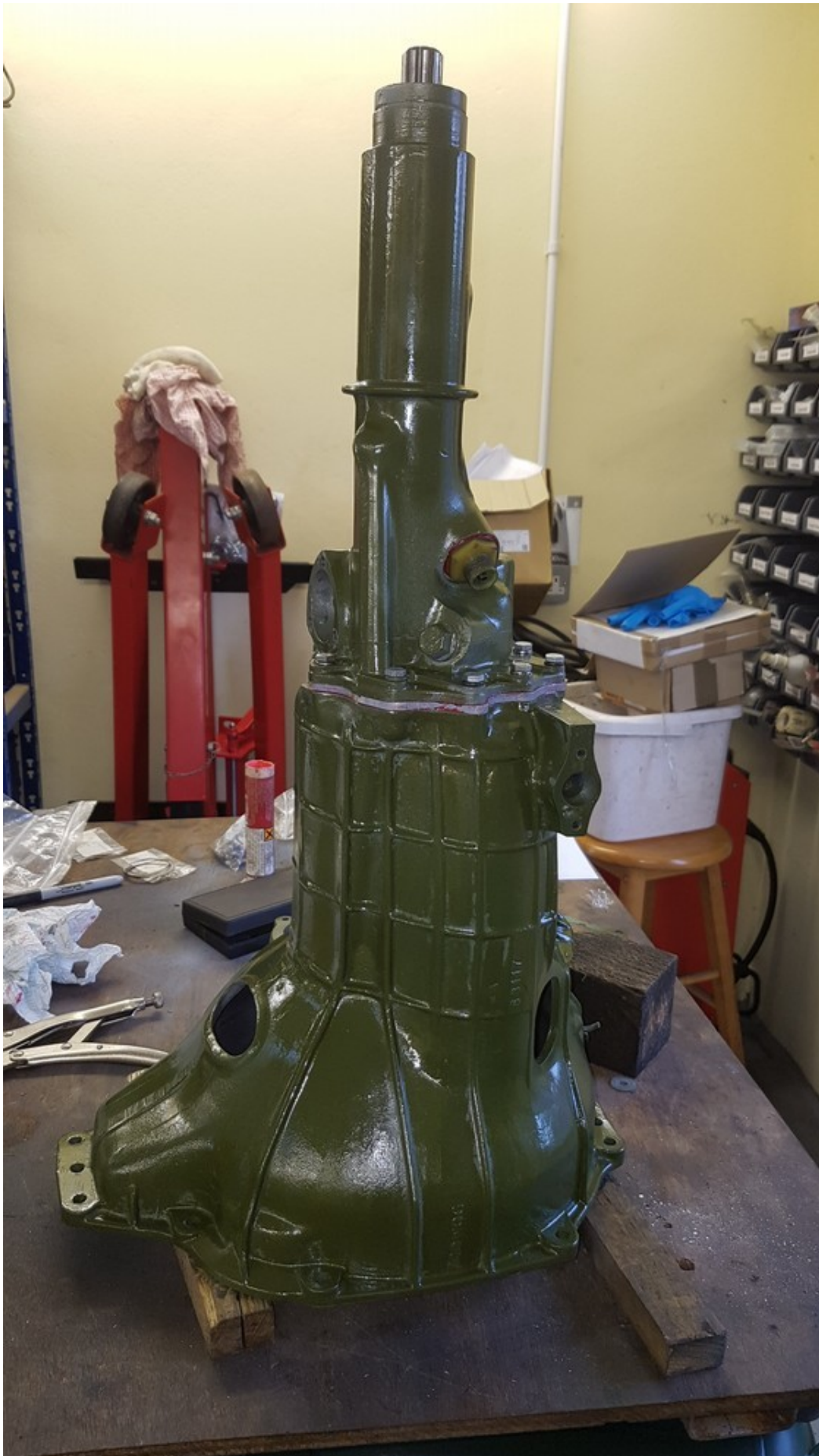


New Syncros, Bearings and first gear - I rebuild the gearbox with care.

I rebuilt the gearbox with new bearings, syncro cones etc.
The front half is a later design but I kept the long gearstick by making a 5mm adaptor plate and re-engineering the reverse gear gate.



The gearbox assembled. Note the adaptor plate has not yet been sprayed.



Engine and gearbox now ready to install



Gearbox installed using my hydraulic seat as a jack



Time to install the engine



The engine has to be put in sideways then rotated to fit onto gearbox.
Social distancing prevents me getting an extra pair of hands.



Now for the Interior

Cargo Floor made of plywood with support frame



Left
The Seats go in for a trial fit

Below
Door Cards are painted & fitted



The Bakelite indicator Switch(es)

The small switch to the left disables Trafficators whilst the large switch operates flashers and Trafficators if enabled. The centre red lens has since been replaced with a green lens which I made on my lathe.

The

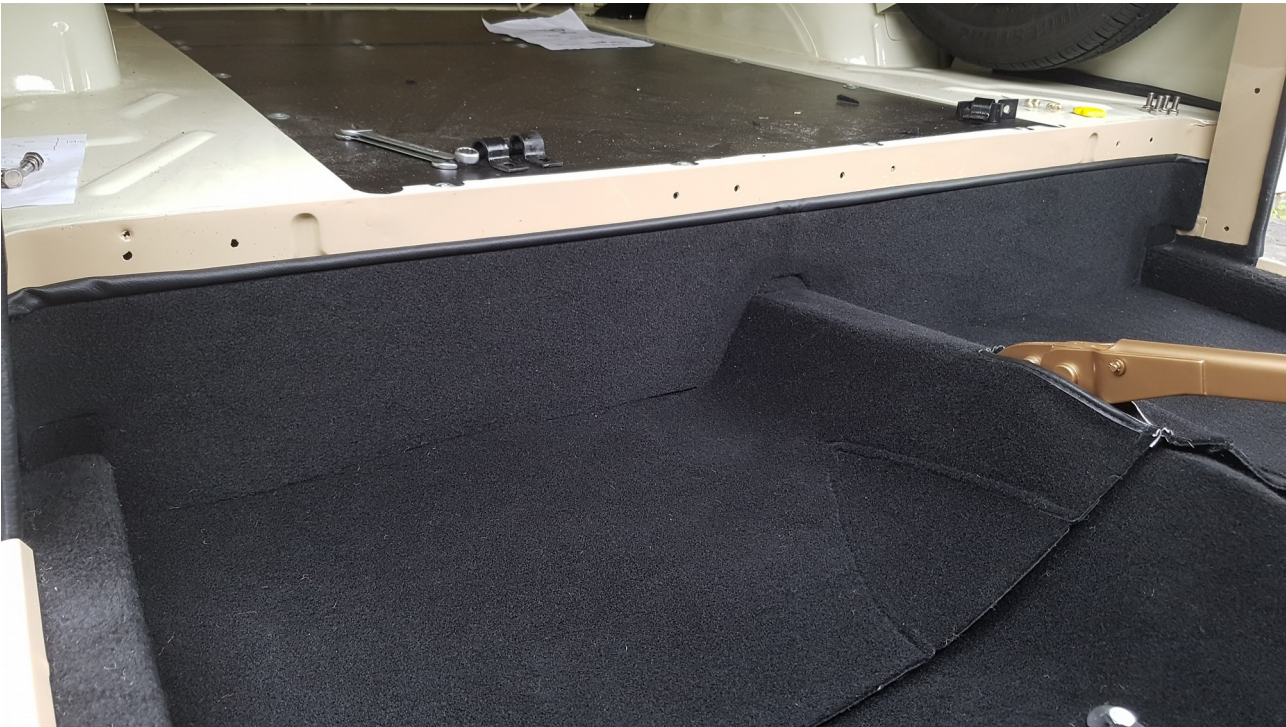


Cargo floor is now painted in Satin Black



Headlining Boards and Sun Visor refitted with new vinyl covering to match interior.

Carpet set (Series 2 car) are fitted



The interior is now looking tidy.



Door Panels are coloured in brown as original

The all important Wife's view of her seat



Looking forward from th back doors

Some Finishing Touches -
The engine bay



Hub Caps

Rear LED Lights include Flashers (switched with or without Trafficators)



Below all is in place ready to roll

Hub Caps now fitted



Back Windows now in place

Preparing to fit windscreens (Cross beam braced in doorways.



The screens are in place with centre bar next to fit.
(Note : Plywood sheets made to spread the load as wedges used to push screens in)

Windscreens in at last.
Only the lights to align & rims to fit



Headlights aligned & rims now in place – All Done

Sometime between 1953 and 1955 my dad (Wally) used an identical 1953 Morris Minor Van for his work which was 'cleaning windows' in Southampton. I had vague memories of a Morris Minor Van which at the time seemed very refined to me.

This photograph came to light some time after I had started the restoration. He would have been c35 in this photo and I am nearly twice that age.

In later years he also was on the stocky side. He also suffered with painful knees but went on to be 86 years old and lived next door to me for the last 7 years of his life.

