

**Media Outlet:** *The Sunday Times Online (Driving.co.uk)*

**Date:** 20.06.13

**URL:** <http://www.driving.co.uk/news/news-neighbours-take-dorset-man-to-court-over-car-collection-eyesore/12367>

**DUU:** 39,208



# THE SUNDAY TIMES

News: Neighbours take Dorset man to court over car collection "eyesore"



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Britain is a nation of hoarders with over half describing their homes as "cluttered", according to a survey by RatedPeople.com, but a Dorset man who has a collection of 30 old cars in his back garden discovered it's a habit that can cost a day in court and a £2,000 bill.



The vehicles were in the garden of a house belonging to Patrick Holyhead of Poole and included numerous vans, a VW campervan, a BMW 3-series, a Ford Fiesta and an MGB sports car. Many had been in Holyhead's garden since 2000. Neighbours first complained to Holyhead and to the local council in 2007.

"We sent a warning to Mr Holyhead and he carried out minor remedial works to the garden and curtailed his activity," said Andy Dearing, a planning enforcement officer for Poole Borough Council.

But some habits are hard to shake off and slowly Holyhead began adding to his collection so that by 2009 his neighbours were once again up in arms.

"The garden ended up littered with rotting cars, trailers and portaloos – it was like a car scrapyard," said Dearing. "The neighbours described the garden as an eyesore. The vehicles are all sorts from commercial vehicles to camper vans and even classic cars but all of them were decrepit."

The council served Holyhead with a notice to tidy up his garden but he refused, saying that the cars didn't cause a problem. But at a court hearing this month, District Judge Nicholls gave Holyhead 28 days to clear his garden or face further council action. He was also ordered to pay the council's costs of £2,000.