

MG owner's journey to



HERITAGE: Research and correspondence with the DVLA enabled Dave Gordon to bestow the original Kent registration number upon his car. Pictures by Paul Glendell.

ELLIE HOUSE

Owning a classic car is about so much more than enthusiasm for the vehicle, or the quest for perfection. Seldom would you complete a rebuild alone, regardless of the solitary hours spent under the bonnet. For even if you manage the labour by yourself, most car enthusiasts will turn to an incredible community for support and advice. From passionate local groups which have a rich history, to classic car shows attended by hundreds of people each year – you can always find tips and be inspired by fellow owners. Social media means you can glean guidance from people around the world, united by their dedication to a certain model or quest for a rare part. Your Car has been privileged to cover hundreds of events over the

years, from charity rallies in far-flung places to a more sedate drive at Aberdeen beach. But when lockdown was announced in March, the calendar was stripped bare overnight. Those who were looking forward to a new season had no choice but to silence the engine and hope for better days to come. Classic car owners are nothing if not determined however, with many of you taking advantage of lockdown to complete long-awaited projects. For Dave Gordon, furlough gave him the opportunity to do some remarkable research on his beloved 1965 MG Midget MK2. It has been an enduring love affair for the grandfather who lives in Newmachar, and he has been tinkering with cars since childhood. Dave spent £130 on his one and only classic car

when he was an apprentice mechanic, and it has undergone two restorations. Having borrowed from the bank of mum and dad to afford his pride and joy all those years ago, Dave realised that he knew very little about the MG's past. So he took it upon himself to do a spot of investigative work, to unearth previous owners who had loved and lost the MG. "I did a 13-month restoration to get my little red car back on the road again, because it had been stored away for 20 years," said Dave. "My son, David, has been an incredible support throughout. "I popped the MG away for hibernation once all the work was completed, and that's when I decided to delve into her history really. "The one fact that had always puzzled and

intrigued me, was that when I first purchased the car in the early Eighties, the registration documents always stated the car was manufactured in 1965. But the registration number ended with a "D" which always related typically to 1966. "This was a fact that often came to mind over my years of ownership, and it is something that would lead me into one of the most amazing and enjoyable journeys imaginable. "It sparked my search to find out more." Dave started by searching through old registration documents before scouring the internet, and contacted the DVLA alongside registration offices across the country. "I don't know how many telephone calls I made, or the numerous letters which were sent out," he said. "I discovered that the

MG had changed hands quite a lot in its early life, I'm actually the 11th owner." Not content with that nugget of information, Dave kept searching for answers. Who were the owners, and did they love the MG as much he did? "I was able to discover why my car had the GRG 289D registration and it turned out the MG had been fitted with a private registration number, which remained on the car during the ownership of owner number nine," said Dave. "When he sold the car, it was typical at the time for local tax offices to issue a local registration to their area – this being Aberdeen, hence GRG 289D and so my 38-year mystery was finally over. "I wondered if I could possibly try to get the original registration put back on the car. And so it

discover car's history



The lovingly restored red MG Midget on the road with proud owner Dave in the driving seat.



The classic car is the Newmachar grandfather's pride and joy.



was back to the telephone calls, emails and letter writing. "I finally got a new V5 document allowing me to re-register my car back to its original Kent registration number DKP 948C, as first registered on the 21st of June 1965. "This was an extremely happy day and a major milestone in my quest to find out more about my little red car's history." How the MG arrived in Scotland was yet another story to unravel. "I found out the tale from owner number six," said Dave. "They told me that owner number five lived in Essex, and had come to Scotland on holiday in the summer of 1975. "The MG had broken down with pretty catastrophic engine problems on the Aberdeen to Ellon road. "The recovery service was James Gibb & Son

Ellon, and the owner decided to cut his losses and sell the car to the garage, hence why it ended up in Aberdeen." Dave has been able to trace four Scottish owners, and now hopes to find the owners from the MG's early days. "I feel very fortunate to have reunited the MG with previous owners," said Dave. "One owner had passed away, but I was able to meet his widow and son. "It was a very emotional reunion, because a car like this becomes part of the family. "Lockdown has been hard for a lot of classic car owners, because so many events have been cancelled. "But I want to tell people to keep on going; this project has certainly given me hope during tough times. "The MG has had a very colourful history, one

owner used to go courting in it. "Everyone has been able to tell me something." Dave believes the MG was green when it left the factory, and was changed to red by an owner who he is yet to meet. "It certainly wasn't green during its time in Scotland, so the search is ongoing," he said. "Lockdown gave me a chance to do a bit more work as well, I completed the second restoration in 13 months. "It had second-hand bumpers, but I've been able to replace quite a lot from a new fabric roof to chrome strips. "It has been a journey, and now I want to find anyone who can tell me about my little red car from the very beginning." • If you have any information as to the MG's past, contact davidgordon964@gmail.com



Mr Gordon with his son David, who he said has been an 'incredible support'.