

Left to right: Lea, Sharon and Moyra with the restored Minor outside their childhood home in Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset.



Before and after: the Traveller underwent a full restoration in 2013-14.



Family Traveller

SHARON SHEPPARD is the proud owner of a recently-restored Traveller that has been in her family since 1964

Until 1964, my family lived in Singapore. In that year my father, George Needham, returned to England ahead of us, in order to find a home and a car! He met us in April 1964 at Tilbury docks in a 1963 Morris Minor Traveller, which he purchased from a lady who lived in Formby, Liverpool.

That was the year England had a lot of snow. My two sisters, Lea and Moyra, and I were all under the age of 11 and were so excited at seeing this white stuff! My youngest sister, Lea, stuffed some of it in her coat pocket, hoping it would last forever, but with the little heat we had in the car, it melted all over the seats.

The Traveller was our family car, well used and very well loved. We had many happy outings in it. When we used to go

to Weston Super Mare, the journey took us over two humpback bridges. We used to try to persuade Dad to go as fast as he could over the bridges and in order to achieve this, the three of us would bounce up and down on the back seat. If we did that now, the springs wouldn't stand a chance!

In 1996, Dad handed over the car to me to look after and hopefully get it restored, as it was in need of it. But to due finances and family life, it remained in the garage untouched until November 2013, when we handed it over to Charlie Ware for a total restoration. This was in memory of my beloved father who died in early 2012. The only parts of the Morris that weren't changed were the steering wheel, gear stick, handbrake and dashboard with

the original speedometer. The Rose Taupe paintwork and the red and white seats are the original colours.

The first trip my sisters and I did in the Morris was to return to our home at Hatch Beauchamp, where we grew up. I now very proudly drive the Morris on a daily basis, and I – or rather the car – get lots of admiring glances!

My everlasting memory of Dad and the Morris was that he was always tinkering with it. The bonnet was always up or it was up on ramps or, as in the photo, he was on a stool doing something with it. I'm sure he would have been very proud to see the car in this beautiful restored condition. ●



George Needham and the Traveller, a much-loved family car.

