

Charmwood Chat

OCTOBER 2013

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**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE NORTH LEICESTER MG CLUB**

Me and My **MIG**

This month, Geoff and Kathy Allen tell us about their Midget, which they have owned since 1973. Does this make it the club's longest-owned car?

This is the fourth Midget that Geoff has owned and was bought brand new in February 1973. She travelled far and wide for three years, being used by Geoff for work (which took him all over the country) and as the family car. On the occasions when Geoff's job took him abroad, Kathy took charge of the Midget, until Geoff returned home.

In early 1976, Geoff was offered a company car, so Kathy was once again in charge of the small sports car, and for the next seven years had the enjoyable experience of driving it..

With the birth of their son, Mark, in 1979, the front passenger seat was removed to accommodate his carrycot. As he grew and was able to sit up, the front passenger seat was returned and Geoff designed a sturdy frame which was fitted behind the car's two seats to attach a baby-seat to. This gave Mark a prominent place in the car to view

his surroundings and he soon became a back-seat driver, telling Kathy when she needed to switch on the main beam, when driving home after dark.

When their daughter Janet was due in 1982, it was clear that the Midget would be too small to carry all of the additional equipment needed, so a decision had to be made. The Midget was offered as a trade-in, but the offer made by the dealer was well below the sentimental value of the car, so it was stored in a garage until Geoff and Kathy could plan its future.

Ten years later, in 1992, Geoff was looking for a challenge and decided to restore the Midget. The work carried out included cleaning and painting underneath, fitting new rear springs, rebuilding the engine and gearbox and re-spraying the bodywork in the car's original Bronze Yellow. This took three years to complete and the car was proudly put back on the road purely for summer driving. Shortly after, the Historical Vehicle Exemption Road tax was introduced and XTC 269L just qualified, having been first registered in September 1972.

Before celebrating the Midget's 30th birthday in 2003, both wings were re-sprayed and the next outing was to the

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