

# Motoring

## Mike's Moggy

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■ Mike Hill, of Datchet, with his 1931 Morris Minor pick-up.

660/24

THIS is arguably one of the most unique versions of the classic 'Moggy'.

In the 1940s, just when it might have been scrapped due to petrol rationing, it was saved and converted by a joiner into a commercial 'pick-up' truck.

Owner Mike first spotted the car around 10 years ago.

"I saw it advertised in one of the magazines," he says,

"It was near Chester. I went up and looked at it, liked it, and brought it home." So began a fine romance.

The philanthropist Lord Nuffield was the man behind the Morris Minor.

This version had a four-cylinder 847cc side-valve engine and was manufactured at the Cowley factory in Oxford between 1929 and 1934.

During the Second World War it was converted to a 'drop side' form of pick-up by a joiner who subsequently used it to transport pig-swill.

"You could get four barrels on the back," explains Mike.

"Of course, during the war, lots of people kept chickens and pigs to supplement their rations."

Since becoming the proud owner, Mike has had to do very little work on the

*'Man's heart expands to tinker with his car  
For this is Sunday morning, Fate's great bazaar'.  
It could almost be this very car being described in  
this 1935 poem 'Sunday Morning' by Louis  
MacNeice. Richard Hill goes to Datchet to meet  
Mike Hill and his personal passion – a 1931  
Morris Minor.*

vehicle. "The main thing I've had done is to have it painted," he said.

"I've done other bits and pieces over a period, and that's how you see it now.

"I've had the engine completely done up to run on unleaded petrol."

Obviously, it's not the fastest vehicle around, but who cares?

"I chug along at about 35mph, I don't like to push it. I imagine that in its day it would whip along at up to 55. I've done the London to Brighton run in it four times."

In an area populated by tourists, it naturally draws attention.

"You do get looked at," says Mike. "I've been through Windsor quite a lot and people video you or take pho-

tographs. There are probably photographs of it all over the world."

Mike, a member of the Uxbridge & District Classic Vehicle Society, is very proud and passionate about his unique piece of motoring history. "I like it and I enjoy it. It's like part of the family really. It is unusual. There are plenty of Austin 7s about, but there are not so many Morris Minors."

Mike's car will be on display this Sunday at the Chiltern Open Air Museum.

Other local appearances this year include: June 24 – Middlesex Show, Uxbridge. July 15 – Langley Carnival. July 15 – Uxbridge Auto Show.

Happy Birthday! As well as being the



70th birthday of Mike's Morris Minor, 2001 is also the 25th anniversary of the Morris Minor Owners' Club.

Further info: Uxbridge & District Classic Vehicle Society – [www.udcvs.org](http://www.udcvs.org)