

Motoring Infatuation!

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■ **LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT:** Primula De Havilland poses on the bonnet of her red Triumph GT6 Mk1.

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WHEN her high heel went through the floor of her Ford Capri, Primula knew it was time for a change.

She was introduced to Wilomena Wessell, a retired hairdresser in her late seventies who was parting with her Triumph. It was love at first sight.

Primula, from Manor Park, Slough, has a background in entertainment as her bright bubbly personality reflects. Side by side, Primula and 'Lady Rouge' make a wonderfully theatrical couple taking centre stage – and stealing it.

While Primula talks, 'Lady Rouge' purrs – the delicate purr of a well-cared-for engine.

Affection between partners is often obvious. It is here. Primula showers 'Lady Rouge' with unconditional tenderness.

"I know it's unusual, but I love to polish her," says Primula. "It's a pleasure to see her shine the way she does." Again, 'Lady Rouge' purrs.

"She's been with me such a long time and we've had some lovely trips together.

"It's such a pleasure to be able to look after such a beautiful classic car – making sure she's still on the road and used.

"She's fun to drive. We don't go on the motorway but it's lovely just to put your foot down on the Windsor Relief Road sometimes and do 60!

"I tend to drive her with kid gloves. She's probably been molly-coddled throughout her life.

Seventeen years ago, Primula De Havilland fell in love – with a dazzling rose red Triumph GT6 Mk1 called 'Lady Rouge'.

In the third of his series – Personal Passions – Richard Hill meets the devoted couple.

"It's also nice, the pleasure she gives other people. People stop me to ask me things about her.

"She's become more of an interest as the years go by, and I like the interest that people show.

"Keeping any classic car in exquisite condition takes time and teamwork. Over the years 'Lady Rouge' has luxuriated in the undivided attention of dozens of men."

Primula says she is indebted to them all: "All the mechanics that have helped me over the years, especially my mechanic Alan, who has been marvellous."

Primula is so attached to 'Lady Rouge' that probably nothing could take her place.

"I can't imagine being without her," she says. "I can't imagine anyone else driving her. I'm going to



hang on to her as long as I can.

"I want to look after her for ever." True love never dies.

■ **How far would you go for your car?** Richard Hill wants to hear from anyone who is

absolutely crazy about his or her 'unique or antique' car. In a new occasional series Richard meets characters who are absolutely in love with their cars. Contact Richard on 01753 627 205 or e-mail richard.hill@sloughobserver.co.uk