

## **Bob's Veteran Outfit!**

Ralliers on the recent Arnside Rally were given a great treat. Bob & Val Patrick came with their recently restored Austin Metropolitan Car & their fold up Caravan, painted in a striking red and cream colour. It all started when Val bought Bob a model car for his birthday several years ago which was a replica of his first ever car. This prompted Bob to start collecting these model cars, and then eventually he decided to purchase the real thing!

### **The History of the Vehicle.**

When Austin at Longbridge made the vehicle in March 1957, it was exported to Bermuda to start its life. It then found its way over to Uganda & finally it was brought back to the UK in September 1961. It was presumed to have belonged to someone in the Diplomatic Core, but there lies a mystery.

Bob belongs to the Metropolitan Owners Club and their Secretary knew he was looking for a car to restore.



The Secretary found the car at Leighton Moss, Nr Carnforth, and asked Bob if he would like to see it. Bob & Val went to look at it, and found it to be the exact vehicle he was looking for, even though it was an old wreck. This started the hunt for suitable spares, which took him as far as Florida USA. Because most of the cars of this type, originally made in England, were exported to the USA, there were plenty of spares to be had. For example; rubber window & door seals, engine & gearbox parts. As for the bodywork, Bob along with his son Glen, made those pieces themselves.

Thus began the work on the restoration which took many nights and weekends. Two years later and the rebuilt vehicle was ready for painting, yet it then took a further 12 months for the interior to be completed. From the car being restored, Bob gave permission for it to appear in the T V drama "The Quest" which was written, directed and also starred David Jason.

### **The 'Portafold' Caravan**



Portafold made the Caravan in approximately 1965. When found, it was in fairly good condition being made of Fibre Glass, but it required re-painting to match the car, it was also in need of new internal furnishings. Val set to and made the curtains, re-upholstered the seats and carpeted the floor.



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