

New Members Story - Phil & Leanne Ide

Q & A with Phil Ide

Were you previously a member of a car club (or perhaps even an old member of this club).

No, unfortunately despite spending some 50 years repairing classic and vintage cars for clients I've never owned one myself until recently. Hence, I've never been a member of any car club.

How you became interested in classic cars.

My first job at 15 years of age was as an apprentice spray painter for a local crash repair shop. I later added panel beating to my skill set but my interest really took off in the 1980's when working with a number of elderly coach builders all of which had self-restored vintage cars. I was learning from some of the best and started doing some work in my garage on a Lotus 7, that led onto a number of Elan and Europa restorations then some big Healeys.

The work just grew over the next 30 years with the most challenging cars being a 1954 Dannenhauer & Stauss, a 1954 Porsche Speedster and a 1959 Lotus 12 Formula 1 car that was driven by Graham Hill in the Dutch, Belgium and Monaco GPs.

Whilst I had a career shift in the late 1990's I still kept working on classic cars for a small group of clients in my little humble double garage.



The classic cars you own or have owned.

Never passing up a challenge I finally purchased a car of my own, a RHD 1968 E-Type in extremely poor condition. It's currently in a rotisserie, undergoing a full restoration. I am now recently retired so have the time to get into it and aiming to get it on the road sometime towards the end of 2026.

Your fondest memories owning a classic car.

To be honest seeing this incredibly rusty E-Type coming up the street on a flatbed truck after making the journey from Los Angeles was amazing. Finally getting my dream car and my dream challenge to bring back to life a car that was destined for the scrap heap is exciting.

Perhaps a funny motoring experience

Nothing I can think of.

Make, model, details and photos of the car(s) you now own including any history of the car such as when and where you bought it and the like.

Jaguar, E-Type (January) 1968, California car until June 2024 when I purchased it. The car has not been on the road for over 20 years and while the car has suffered considerably, to me it just makes the rebirth even more rewarding.

Phil & Leanne Ide

Editor: There have been some monumental E-Type restorations carried out by members of our club over the years, but this one will be right up there. All the best, and it will be great catching up with you.



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