

The house was the same, her hand bag still on the kitchen counter, time froze for Tom, the house he and his wife had bought brand new and GMH 808N. And that's what I found when I opened the car up, everything exactly as she had left it, as if she had just climbed out of it the day before, a very odd feeling.

So with Toms 70 yr. old daughter stood in front of me asking what I thought and whether I could shift it ASAP as she wanted to call the scrap man in, I just said, "I'll have it !"

Discussions then went into finances and I offered them a good fair price, they were over the moon.

I then jacked the car up and clambered all around it, couldn't find any nasty surprises at all, well for 18,230 miles what was there to be found?

I 'popped' the bonnet and there was a pristine 1.6 pinto, an engine I know so well, I removed the plugs and dropped my 3/4" AF spanner on the crank bolt and turned the engine over, it moved straight away. Sold thought !!

I then cranked up my compressor and blew the slightly low tyres up, only a few PSI needed as the car had been on blocks, whilst it was up in the air I crawled underneath and with my torch in hand searched in vain for any signs of corrosion on the floor pans, brake lines etc, all had been 'Ziebarted' in November 1974 at Reynolds Motors Dagenham Essex at an extra price of £49 on the purchase price of £1701.63 inc VAT.

I then rolled her out into the sunshine for the first time since Oct '78. I stood back and took in the sight! **WOW !!**

Only damage was from 'Garage scars' catching the wall at some time, and a rear quarter dent that something must have hit, nothing serious

Next issue was to get her back to Nottinghamshire where I live, a few calls later and I got the use of a trailer for beer tokens and a mate who was willing to tow it her back, yet again for the standard 'coinage' of beer and food.



MOT day is always a n unpredictable time especially when you are taking a car that's been stored for 35 years!

So the last Saturday in April dawned and we set off for Bristol, no problems, well none until one of the four trailer tyres blew out!

You try finding a supplier of trailer tyres in rural Somerset on a Saturday afternoon when your stuck in a service station on the M5 !" Not easy, but none the less an adventure.

We got her loaded up and headed off up north and home by the early evening.

I then spent the next 4 months re-commissioning her, nothing was seized, nothing was corroded, all went to plan, bit by bit, first the engine, and fuel system was sorted and being very simple that took no time at all.

Then rear and front brakes over haul new cylinders at the rear and new seals and pistons on the front.

The day came when I was happy enough to start her, a few dry runs and then I fitted the rota arm and after a few turns she fired up and idled no trouble!

Next was try the gears, the gear lever then came off in my hand, the plastic bush had disintegrated! A new stick was found and fitted, then straight into gear, I've since restored the original gear stick and reinstated it.

All the electrics amazed me, all worked, even the heater motor and horn! Side light bulbs were still working but both side light bulbs had dropped out of the back of the head light bowls as the grommets had perished, easy fix !

“ ... I wasn't expecting her to pass first time. ”



In 1978, Tom's wife left her umbrella on the back seat of the MKII. She sadly passed away and the umbrella remained on the back seat until Andy bought the car.

Once I had sorted everything mechanically including restoring the wheels I needed to put her through an MOT, I booked her into a local garage for a Friday afternoon, insured her and very gingerly drove her the four miles - *she drove perfectly.*

I wasn't expecting her to pass first time, but all that they found was a leaking master cylinder, (which wasn't there when I left) a steering rack bush had disintegrated and the rear brakes were binding! ... *That's all!!*"

That was the 26th August 2017 and after fixing the failures one week later I took her back for a free retest, and she flew through!

I drove home with a big daft smile on my face. I was 'over the moon' to say the least! >