

Lucy and the Apollo Connection - from Bob Andrew

Further to my article in the May-June 2010 Mascot about the two restorations of my Hunter SRW 532, I have now found a copy of the April 1994 Popular Classics magazine, with Nick Larkin's 'Driving' article featuring the car when it belonged to my daughter Lucy, who, when asked what she would like for her 21st birthday present replied: "The Singer!", and then, for reasons no-one knows, christened the car "Ian".

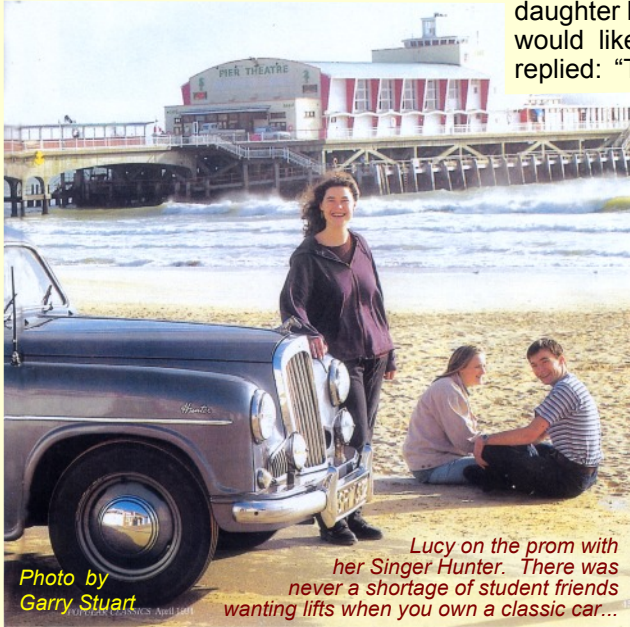


Photo by
Gary Stuart

Lucy on the prom with her Singer Hunter. There was never a shortage of student friends wanting lifts when you own a classic car...

And so it was that she was using Ian daily whilst studying at Bournemouth university.

"NO, I would not rather have a Fiesta," said Lucy in reply to Nick's question - "I just wouldn't want any other car now."

Lucy used Ian for socialising, going to university events in the evening, and occasional shopping trips, along with regular visits home to East Sussex. She ran an Austin Allegro previously, but found no problem driving the Hunter. "I must admit," she said, "I found the steering heavy at

first, but got used to it. The car doesn't like cross-winds either, but it's got enough performance for around town and will cruise happily at 55mph on the motorway."

Lucy recalled the time some years earlier when she first saw the Hunter. "I took one look at the car when my dad brought it home and thought 'He'll never do anything with that!'"

She was very pleased to have been proved wrong, recalling that only minor work, including a good clean, some fuel, a battery, freeing off the wheel cylinders and a greasing were all that was needed to make the car roadworthy - amazing after 20 years stuck in a Coventry lock-up. What Lucy hadn't realised was that I had also spent around twelve months carrying out rust repairs, a load of rechroming and a respray! But it was worth it, and the Hunter spent the next four years as the family's standby car, covering 15,000 miles in the process.

Lucy summed up the car: "It's great to drive, it's fun, and it has real individuality. No wonder people think it's worth a lot more than it is, and wonder how I can afford it."

And the Apollo Connection? The clue is in the horse's head bonnet mascot, which, according to Singer's brochure, derives from Greek mythology, in which Apollo 'daily drove the sun across the sky in a mighty chariot drawn by many horses...', and was chosen as a symbol to illustrate the shining and unflinching performance of the Hunter.

My friend at the Singer agent, Flacks of Amersham, was more down-to-earth and said it was so called because the Company Chairman was Mr Hunt!

Bob.

