

The Story of MPC 175P.

Going back to July 2002, the time I bought the little Alfa Romeo 1.6GT Junior from a man in Devon.

I had the car booked in for an MOT the next day and after fitting a new rear back box section all was OK, for the next year I drove this car with great pride even though it was in need of a 'make over' it looked presentable from twenty paces away and drove nicely. I also had an MGB GT at the time but after having driven the Alfa it had to go, the Alfa felt modern and responsive the 'B' was ancient in comparison. Roll forward to July 2003 and MOT time was looming, after a quick inspection of the cills and floors I decided that no way was it going to pass.

I had a friend from Circuit Training at the local school hall, and the pub after wards, he was into restoring classic cars, a small one man band business. After a few beers one night it was decided that he would take on the restoration.

Roll on a year and divorce was in the air for him and also on the cards for me too, to cut a long story short we both moved on and formed new lives with new partners. The car was put into storage by my friend and we sort of lost touch by not getting around to chat, I did not know where the car was?

One day in November 2013 my 'new' wife ran upstairs one morning saying, "You know that old Alfa you had that you have mentioned to me many times, well how would you feel if it was coming back home" ? I was like, what are you talking about I'm half a sleep ? The i phone was shoved into my hand and there was a message from my old pal saying the car would have to be moved as the storage place was being lost soon, later that day I had sent him a text and that weekend we met and the details of the Alfa's location were revealed.

First thing back at work on the Monday I called the guy who had it in storage and arranged for me and my big brother to go and see what was left of the red beast. We arrived at the barn after lunch and inspected the dismantled but part mended carcass, it was not too bad as years of being in the well ventilated and dry environment had been kind to it.

As it turned out the custodian of the Alfa was into classic car restoration so at this point after about an hour of deliberating we agreed an approximate price and a plan was formed for him to restore it. This car had been in the barn for about eight years and now March 2014 work will begin once again, the engine and gearbox has been sent off for overhaul.

One day in the not too distant future I hopefully once again will be able to drive that lovely red car again, and this time hopefully it will be as good as new, if not better?

By Andrew Malek.