

If you want a classic, look to the military

John Weedon, area secretary for the Severnside Military Vehicle Trust, talks about his passion.

I became interested in the ex-military vehicles in the summer of 1998, after visiting a Military Vehicle Trust show at Berkeley Castle. I revisited that show with a friend of mine, joined the Trust and went searching for a vehicle.

We found a 1970 Kaiser-Jeep 2.5 ton M.35 6 x 6, with a 6cyl 7.7 litre diesel engine. It came with a cargo body, canvas cover and a one-ton trailer.



It needed some cosmetic work, and a few other modifications, in order to pass the VOSA heavy vehicle test. As it came from a USAF base in the UK, we then had to register it.

I also had to pass the Large Rigid Goods Vehicle test, in order to drive it legally!

In 2005, we purchased a 1942 Dodge 1.5 ton WC62 6 x 6 Weapons Carrier, which had been left out in a Norwegian farmer's field and imported by a dealer near Bridgnorth. This took approximately two years to bring to showable condition.

Early this year I acquired 'Jimmy'. He is a 1944 GMC 2.5 ton 6 x 6, in US Navy colours, from a local club member. I will use Jimmy for local shows, and use the M.35 for longer runs across the UK.

