

Robert Lovegrove of the Singer Owners Club talks about his affair with one very special car

I saw my Singer 9 Sports car JF 6759 (pictured below) in about 1950, when I was 12 years old. My dad's friend George Nettleton had bought it.

George rebuilt it using a Ford engine that he had taken from a boat, removed the rear seat, decked it over with hard board, and made a small hood.

They entered it in rallies, trials and hill climbs, and his wife drove it as a daily car until 1974. It then stood in a garage until my son suggested to George that I should take it on in memory of his dear wife.

In 2001 I thought that I would do the minimum necessary to get it back on the road. Alas, when I took off the alloy body skin, the wooden frame collapsed. My life was about to change as I started on a ground-up restoration with little knowledge of what I was taking on.

I was fortunate to meet an expert, SOC member Jim Keniston. He found me who found me a 1933 engine and gearbox and introduced me to other members of the Western area Singer Owners Club and also the Association of Singer Car Owners. Without their support, my seven year restoration would not have resulted in the lovely car that I now have.

We have enjoyed many adventures in the Singer 9, and none more memorable than the VSCC 24-hour meeting at Le-Mans in 2008.

My son joined me for the journey down to France. With brilliant weather and quiet roads, the Singer sprang to life again. We did two laps of that famous circuit and enjoyed a fabulous time with 30 other Singers from around the world.

We arrived back at Portsmouth with an additional 1200 miles on the clock, no mechanical trouble and the rebuilt engine that was 'Singing'. The entire experience is a memory that I will always treasure.

