

Puzzling!??

No Drive It Day, no HDC International Weekend, no Le Mans Classic, - bad withdrawal symptoms -so what are we all doing during Lockdown to stay sane? Much of what I wanted to do on my BJ8 I had achieved during the winter months (wishing now that I hadn't!), so in the past few sunshine weeks other than tinkering and giving the chrome wires a thorough clean, it's been the more mundane tasks of gardening and decorating.

With a change to more unsettled weather of late and some welcome rain down here in West Devon, I have though kept Healeys very much to the forefront of my thinking and done a couple of jigsaw puzzles. Not having done one for 50 or 60 years I decided a 500 piece puzzle I'd won in the Cornish auction a couple of years back would be sufficient stimulation. All slotted together fairly well over a couple of evenings and proudly looking at my achievement I wondered where the scene might be (no clues on the box), and if the red Healey and green Morris Minor did in fact exist? A quick scan on the DVLA website determined vehicle details could

not be found for the Healey YGN 268, or even VGN 268 but the Morris WDF 277 first registered in 1959, was sorned in 2012 but colour stated as white not green so it's obviously had a

respray. Does anyone recognise the scene or can throw any further light on the Healey or the Morris Minor?

Brimming with confidence now, I decided to tackle a 1000 piece puzzle my dear sister had given me as a present about 10 years ago,(purely I think because it had a white Healey as its subject so the same colour as mine) and which I had at the time lovingly dispatched to the back of a cupboard! Now a 1000 piece puzzle I can assure you is naturally more difficult than a 500 piece puzzle, but my instincts of it taking twice as long as its smaller version were wildly awry; it's akin to exponential growth of a Covid19 virus and although I've lost count of the hours, it has probably taken five times as long to complete!! – so beware if you're thinking of doing one, but it's rather like restoring a Healey, there is a great deal of satisfaction on seeing the completed job! The box this time was more helpful in telling me the scene was set in the village of Cavendish in West Suffolk with a Mk 2 BJ7 as its subject. Does anyone live nearby? Is the village scene still recognisable? (Ed – Yes. See above and the George is still there and open) Is Chris Bolden's garage still serving the community? As to AMY 7A, the DVLA check showed it to have been first registered in May 1963 in white, no sorn or MOT record since it was last taxed in 1995. Again, does any member have a clue to its existence, or is it still sitting in someone's garage somewhere awaiting that restoration job?

I'm sure Ed will welcome any feedback for a future article throwing some light on any aspects of the above. Meantime I've set myself a couple more motor related tasks to fill Lockdown time if DVLA will let me fill in some V888 forms, as in doing the above research I

determined that my first new car, a 1967 Mk2 Spitfire, is still in existence (hopefully) in BRG and sorned in June 2012, and my 1970 MGB GT is still in midnight blue and sorned in July 2012. My very first car though a Ford Anglia 105E (right) has gone to that great car graveyard in the sky!! Well I'm contemplating that chasing these two leads somewhere will prove fruitful – it'll certainly beat attempting this next 1000 piece jigsaw of multiple models – does anyone want to give it a go before I throw it to the back of a cupboard again??!!

Paul Williams

