

Supercharged History



Words by Craig Watson.

Photos by Craig Watson and Geoff & Judy Birkett.

A one-owner Morris 850 is a rarity. This one has a supercharged history.

Geoff Birkett was at a Mini show recently, getting the usual interest in his Mini. It's not a show car by any means - it is used regularly and has a few small character marks - but it is in excellent condition. What attracts the interest, is what's under the bonnet.

"One young bloke came up", Geoff recalls,

"and said, 'oh, one of those old superchargers'. I said, 'yeah, but I did it back in the 1960s, before you were even born.'"

That's the crux of it, really. Geoff has owned this Morris 850 since new. He went through the usual young-bloke modifying stage, but never felt inclined to restore the car to original condition as he, and it, got older.

That's a good thing really, as the car's history is in what's been done to it, and in it, over the past 40-plus years.

In fact, when Geoff did decide to restore the car, he kept all the improvements he'd made over the years, and added a bit more to the mix, for good measure.

Geoff began work as an apprentice mechanic in 1957 at his local Neptune service station, and remained there for virtually the rest of his working life.

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Geoff in the mid-1960s.



Judy testing the suspension in the mid-1960s.