

Toys For Boys Dash



Paul Chantry and Dash, his Morris Minor pre-retirement present to himself!

Ever Won a Car?

We all fill out a competition form with high hopes but few of us receive ‘the call’ to confirm a win!

Not so in the case of Paul Chantry who lives in Shipton. He did win a car, albeit many moons ago, in *The Great OXO Balloon Race* of 1968! Paul had to work out the distance a hot air balloon would travel having been given the appropriate wind speeds, directions and flight times over four successive days!

Hot Air!

As a newly qualified Oxford Physicist, Paul was worthy of the challenge and he worked out the exact destination of the balloon: Bavaria, Germany. Notwithstanding the difficult challenge of this extraordinary competition, OXO also required a tie-breaker. Paul had to write a greeting to the first person he would meet once the imaginary balloon had landed. Paul wrote: *“Take me to your lederhosen!”*

The Little Imp

I am sure you are dying to know the make of car worthy of all this brainpower and ingenuity. Well, it was a Hillman Imp! Says Paul: “I was very surprised when I received the letter of confirmation, but, I can tell you, the car didn’t stay with me long. I used the tax money for a trip to Paris and sold the car to put a deposit on my first house. I will always be indebted to that little Imp!”

Morris all the Way

Shortly afterwards, Paul started work at Morris Motors. Paul is now Director of Engineering in charge of making body shells for those gorgeous new Minis we see on the road today. After 36 years, his pre-‘retirement present’ to himself came via his friends, John and Nancy McCulloch. They knew that Paul admired their very special Morris Minor, ‘Dash’ and so they gave him first refusal when they decided to sell.

Jan Harvey