



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024

Malcolm Stern announced as Winner of the 2024 National Transport Trust President's Award

A lifetime's interest in cars and the restoration of a 1930 K74 Talbot Darracq Coupe has led to Malcolm Stern of Rickmansworth being announced as the winner of the President's Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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Born in May 1929, Malcolm Stern is currently 95 years old. Married for 60 years to his wife, Sharon, he lives in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. He is a father to three, grandfather to eight, and great-grandfather to one. His interest in cars started as a young boy. During and after World War II, he often assisted his father Alec Stern with car repairs at his garage business near Waterloo Station in London.

As a young man, Malcolm received an Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering and served two years in the Army as a Vehicle Mechanic in REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.) He then joined a graduate engineering apprenticeship at D. Napier & Son Limited, a famous precision engineering company, which he had to leave to help his father in another garage business.

Later, Malcolm bought a tiny office equipment company which he grew over several decades into a successful enterprise manufacturing mobile office furniture, selling mobile air conditioners, and designing and manufacturing dehumidifiers.

The car's history

The car is a 1930 K74 Talbot Darracq Coupe. From about 1936 until the early days of World War II, it belonged to Malcolm's father Alec Stern. Malcolm has fond memories of picnic outings and sitting on the car's running board (see photo). One such memory was the day the war started, 3 September 1939. In an attempt to evacuate, Malcolm, his mother, and his siblings were taken from Chingford, East London in a convoy of double-decker red buses into the Essex countryside. Concerned for his family, Malcolm's father Alec followed the convoy all day in his Talbot Darracq - and later when no homes were offered, he brought the whole family back home in the Talbot.

Malcolm's restoration story

Fast forward to his late 80s/early 90s. Malcolm became interested in 3D printing and bought a 3D printer. He designed and 3D printed many items including vases, chessmen, a model of his house, and copies of statues like Michelangelo's David, Venus de Milo, and the Three Graces. In 2020 (aged 91) during the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, he even 3D printed - and then donated - about 100 face shields.

In the COVID lockdown, Malcolm decided to make a 3D model of his father's old car and so he searched the Internet for its specs. Lo and behold, an announcement popped up that this very same car - the original 1930 K74 Talbot Darracq Coupe - was on auction at Bonhams. And so, for sentimental reasons, he bought it - in an extremely dilapidated condition - for £6,900.

The restoration

Starting in September 2020, Malcolm spent 3.5 years renovating most of the car's bodywork in his garage. He engaged a well-respected car restoration company to handle the mostly unseen work on the engine, transmission, and front and back axles.

In October 2023, the car was MOT inspected and passed as roadworthy.

Malcolm's message:

"Never let advancing age deter you from engaging in ambitious new projects."

Photographs

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The National Transport Trust

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

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