

It started with an email, May 2021

'Hi Karen,

This is a 'just in case' mail. No pressure.... Been asked to help sell a dark blue '62 TR4 with Surrey etc and....You said a while ago that you may be interested in one??.'

My reply, 'I'm interested. I just think I'm a bit scared to commit. Would it be ok to go and look at it? OMG if I fall in love - that'll be me living off beans for the rest of the year.'

We went and had a look. Chris Mountford looked it over for me. I got the thumbs up and I brought it then and there. As you all now know - I'm living off beans.

I've been attending the Stoke TR Group meetings for 14 years and have had a Vitesse MKII convertible for the past 14 years. On the quiet I have been slowly saving for a TR all that time and fully intended to sell the Vitesse to help to finance my purchase. My garage at home would be empty and I would be able to store the TR in there. Great plan, all sorted.

Karen's 1962 TR4



That was the plan.

I still had the Vitesse so I asked the owner if I could leave my TR4 in his garage for a few weeks while I sorted out a home for it. He agreed.

I was wracking my brains about what to do with the Vitesse for a couple of weeks. Then I asked my friend if I could store the Vitesse in her garage. Fully intending to pay rent and do some repairs for her. She said, 'do the repairs on the doors and help me clean out the garage.' Help me clean out the garage is not what you think. She's a bit of a hoarder, I had to help her let go of years of accumulated stuff. I did about 12 tip runs, moved and gave away a mountain of stuff, did the repairs and cleaned the garage out in 3ish weeks because I couldn't wait any longer for my TR4 to come home.

I don't have to pay rent and can store the Vitesse there until early next year when hopefully I will be able to part with it to a good home.

The day came to collect the TR4. Chris and his friend Ian came with me. Chris followed me and Ian back home in his battered but ace white van. The TR4 was running rough. Misfiring and burning petrol all the way from Rhode Heath to Clayton. I was sweating my little conkers off by the time I got home. Ian, my first passenger was just loving the trip. Chris had a look when we got back and of course made it run loads better.

The first driving trip out was to Carnarvon in the worse weather possible. I had 4 of the guys helping to put the hood on and we hadn't got out of Newcastle at this point. Loved it through. After that trip I knew I would be fine driving the TR4 anywhere.

There are a few things that need doing, correct size gear stick, door stops, radiator hoses, (that's another story), inertia seatbelts, practice at putting hood up and down, respray, MOT....., no rush I have the next 20 Years to sort it out.

Karen Kelly

Stoke TR Club Member and TR4 Owner

