

## Top auction price for old Austin

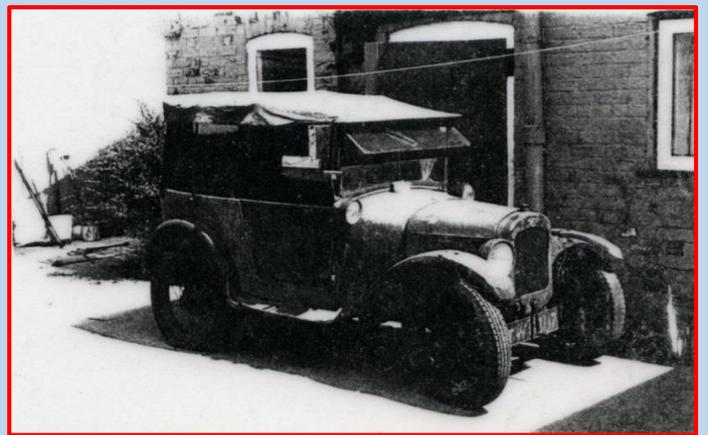
MEET the proud new owner of this rather sorry-looking 1926 Austin Chummy. He is David O'Conner who travelled from Boston in Lincolnshire to buy the car at a Colchester auction on Saturday. Mr O'Conner paid £2,600 for the car – making it the most expensive in the Reemans sale of vintage cars and vans. The vehicles belonged to West Mersea ironmonger Mr Hugh Banham who died last year, but they were only discovered when executors went to examine his estate.

This is 'Chummy'. Do you remember him delivering goods supplied by Digby's? He did this around Mersea Island with his friend and owner, Hugh Banham, the 'face' at Digby's Ironmongery shop on Barfield Road between 1926 and about 1983.

Hi, David O'Connor was in touch with Mersea Museum recently. He has restored a 1926 Austin 7 Chummy and thinks it is time Mersea Island saw it again – because it was very well known on the Island in the 1930s and 1940s, when Digby's used it to deliver paraffin etc. When Hugh Banham died in about 1983, the car was discovered in the shed at the back of the shop, underneath cardboard boxes etc. There were also two Bradford vans and a pre-war Lanchester. David bought the car at the ensuing auction at Reeman and Dansie for £2,600 and he has restored it. Ideally David would like to see it on display in the Museum for a spell, but we do not have a lot of room for it, though we do have a permanent display about Digby's shop. I suggested to David that perhaps it could come to the next Lions Transport show. I think he is keen on the idea, subject to the date fitting. He lives in Boston and would need to bring it on a trailer, though it is roadworthy. David was asking where he could leave the trailer while the car is at the show.

From Tony Millatt – Mersea Museum

Thankyou, very, very much for this, Tony. Can you help us to find out more about this vehicle or any others from your past??



This vehicle will appear in 'TRANSPORT CLASSICS' AT THE MERSEA ISLAND LIONS' SUMMER SHOW ON 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015. Visit [www.mersealionstransportshows.com](http://www.mersealionstransportshows.com) for more information about other exhibits. Call 01206 384980 to join our team.