



Gleaming: Aston Martins, MGs, Porsches and Alfa Romeos make up just part of the car collection at Hexagon Classic Cars. Photos Mike Coles.

Lift the bonnet on a truly luxury line-up

By Mike Coles

Let's say an elderly relative has left you £665,000 in their will, specifically for you to buy and drive the vintage Aston Martin DB4 Vantage car that you've always wanted. Where would you go to buy such a rare and desirable item at such a reasonable price: Beverly Hills, Mayfair, Monte Carlo or East Finchley?

Of course, as you guessed, it's East Finchley. Hexagon Classic Cars, on the Great North Road, has one of the best collections of pristine classic cars available for sale. At any one time there are around 50 classic cars in the showroom, which also houses photos, posters and much other interesting car memorabilia.



Collector: Paul Michaels

One such item at the front of the showroom is a full-size wooden model of a Mercedes gull wing 300 SL Roadster, one of two originally commissioned by a German collector. Hexagon chairman Paul Michaels spotted it at a motor show and purchased it before the show began to place on the Hexagon stand where it has received much attention.

Passion for cars

In the 1960s, north Londoner Paul had a passion for cars, not just as vehicles to take

you to work or to the shops but as pieces of fantastic precision engineering and sculptural styling that transcended the mundane and were as aesthetically valued as a Stradivarius would be to a violinist.

He started a car business in a small garage in Hampstead, before moving to Highgate in 1966 where he dealt in some of the world's most prestigious brands, including Porsche, Aston Martin, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari and Lotus. Outgrowing that Highgate base, he moved to his present premises in East Finchley 25 years ago.

Paul's personal car collection today includes an Eagle E-Type, an ex-Stirling Moss Aston Martin DB4 GT, a 1952 Bentley Fastback and an Aston Martin Sanction III Zagato.

Cars and much more

In 2016 he joined forces with his late wife Racheline, an interior designer, to add a display of ceramics and decorative arts to the Hexagon experience, which continues today. As Paul's plan for the East Finchley site develops, when the current restrictions allow, he will complete a café restaurant, having successfully opened specialist food and wine shop Bottles N Jars next door. Jam jar is, of course, cockney rhyming slang for car.



Wood you believe it? This full-size model of a Mercedes gull wing 300 SL Roadster was bought from a motor show and now has pride of place in the showroom's front window. Photo Mike Coles.

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