

CLASSIC DRIVER

Classic Driver Dealer: DK Engineering



Geographically just a short drive from the Classic Driver office, legendary Ferrari specialist DK is now operating from new premises set in rolling Hertfordshire countryside.

Celebrating over 30 years of operation, **DK Engineering** is not only a world-famous name for concours-level restoration and race preparation but also well known for car sales, too. Between the showroom and the restoration shop, pretty well all significant Ferraris have come under the careful eye of either **David** and **Kate Cottingham**, or their three sons: **Justin, Jeremy** and **James**.

Having started at **Northwood** in 1977, before moving to **Watford** in 1984, DK moved earlier this year to more spacious premises in **Chorleywood**, some 10 minutes from the M25 orbital motorway and – on a good run – no distance from either **Heathrow** or **Luton** airports. There's also a **London Underground** station in nearby **Chorleywood** village centre. Six months on, the converted barn showroom still sparkles and the workshop is now fully fitted out; busy with work varying from a **288 GTO** in for an engine rebuild, to an **F355** undergoing regular servicing and a **1937 BMW 328**, chassis #13 and the sixth car delivered, in for total restoration.



James Cottingham and sales specialist **Philip Redpath** are my guides for the morning. We start in reception and then walk through to the galleried main showroom. It's lined with famed Ferrari artist **Dexter Brown**'s prints of cars that have either passed through the hands of DK, or are in long-term ownership by the family. On the tiled floor, a **275 GTS** is flanked by two **275 GTBs**: a **six-carburettor competition car** and a **four-cam**. Also 'on the stocklist' either here or at another location are classics such as a **1961 Ferrari 250 GT SWB Re-body**, a **1996 McLaren F1** and three very rare **De Tomasos** that have caused something of a stir in the industry, as James explains:

"We've had a tremendous amount of interest in these cars. The **1966 De Tomaso Sport 1500** was designed by the then up-and-coming **Giorgetto Giugiaro**. It was presented at the **1966 Geneva Salon** with a view to getting press coverage for the marque. Although never fitted with the anticipated flat-eight, it achieved its aim and remains a highly dramatic car, fully serviced by us here and perfect as a top-level concours car."

In addition to the older cars, **DK** sources and sells more modern Ferraris right up the **F430** and **612 Scaglietti**. The company services them, too, and two ex-main Ferrari dealer technicians are members of the workshop team. Body repairs are carried out off-site but all other work is accomplished in-house. This includes dyno work – or will do, when the final installation is completed on the dynamometer that has served the company so well over the years.







"We can service or restore any car," states James, pointing out the dark blue **Series I Jaguar E-type FHC** that's being brought up to 'fast road' specification and a **Porsche 356**. James' father, David, started the business working on XKs so the Coventry marque is close to their hearts. As is racing, and the two interests combined when the company restored and race-prepped the mega-quick, **genuine lightweight E-type** of **Juan Barazi** that won the **Goodwood Revival Royal Automobile Club Tourist Trophy Celebration** two years running.

Jeremy and **James** are often on the track, too, either behind the wheel of the family's well-known yellow **Ferrari 500 TRC**, one of their racing **MGBs** or a **Chevron B8**. Inside the workshop, awaiting final preparation for sale, was the famous **1956 Ferrari 500 TR**, chassis **0690 MD TR**, discovered in **Cuba** by **Colin Crabbe** and restored by renowned special **Neil Twyman** with a 3-litre TR-type V12 in lieu of its original four-cylinder - in keeping with many such cars in North and South America at the time. A more compact car than the regular 250 Testa Rossa, it's a potent package.

DK has big plans for 2009, when the outside areas will be used for owners' club meetings and events - but don't wait for then, give them a call and see the new set-up. It's easy to get to - and impressive.



Please click [HERE](#) to see all **DK Engineering's** cars for sale in the **Classic Driver** car database.

For further information on **DK Engineering**, visit www.dkeng.com.

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