

November 1976: Charles Ware keeps the Morris Minor rolling on Bath's roads

From banger to beauty

CHARLES Ware first made his mark in Bath in the property market, but by 1976 it was the Morris Minor market that he had cornered.

He had more than 60 of them crammed on a newly-acquired site on the Lower Bristol Road.

"I'm very happy," he said. "It's nice to be working on a level where one is not continually worried about money."

The Morris Minor started production in 1948 and was produced in great numbers until 1971, when production ceased.

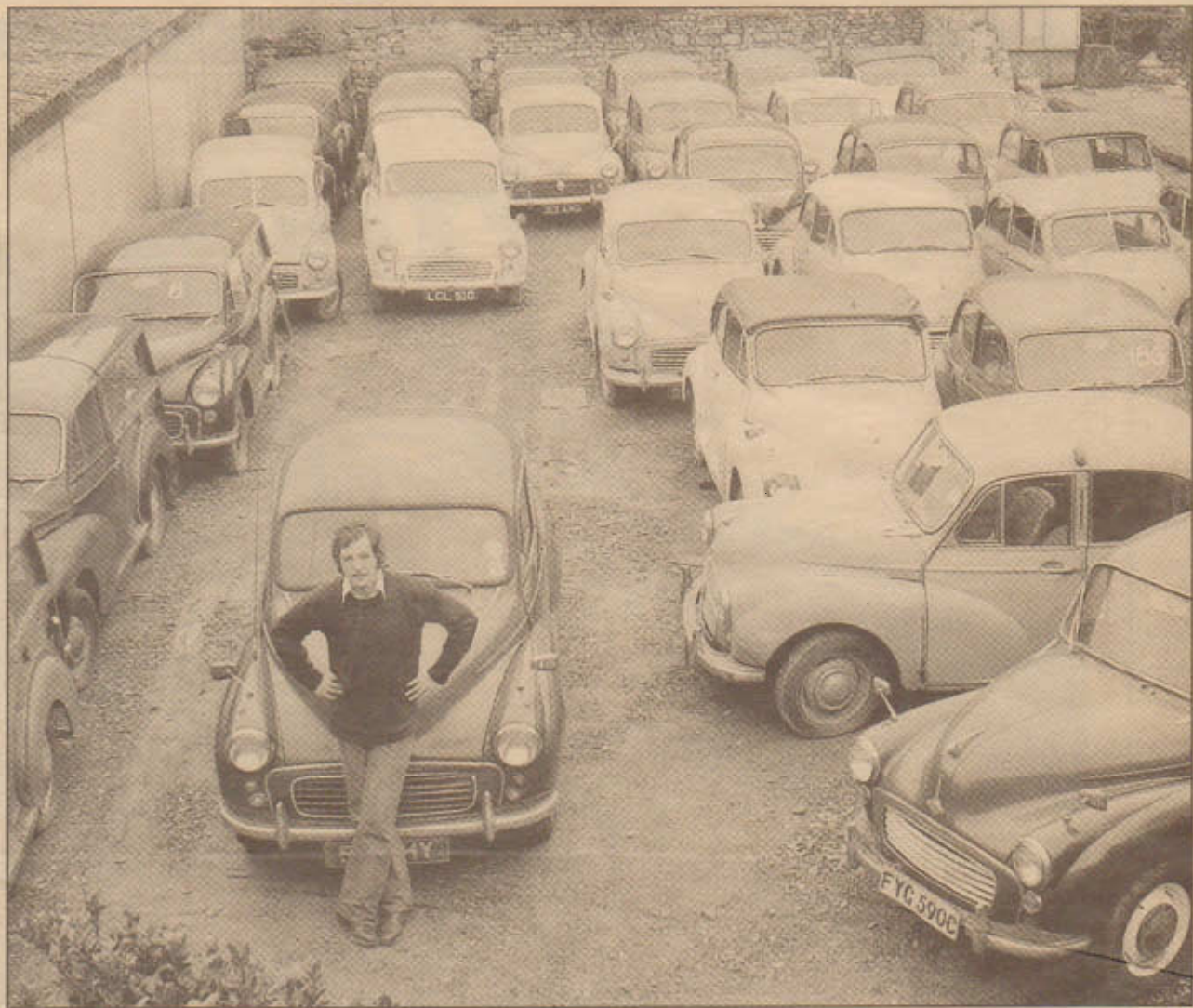
"They've come into their own again," Charles Ware said five years on from the car's demise, "because of inflation, the price of petrol, and the fact that the Morris Minor was the most reliable car ever produced in England."

"What we're doing is buying in old bangers and turning them into cars - not tarted up bangers.

"A customer picks one from the hideous heap, and we restore it according to the customer's requirements.

"The finished car will cost from £500 to £1,000. And it's a good investment. Every year these Morris Minors are appreciating in value more than any other car."

And it seems to have been a successful business - after 28 years, Charles Ware's Morris Minor business is still booming.



MINOR MASTERPIECE: Charles Ware and a couple of dozen examples of England's most reliable car