



## HELLO AGAIN EVERYONE



My apologies for the lack of a V4 column in the last 'Driver', a combination of too much time away with work and not enough organisation on my part meant I missed the deadline for the magazine for the first time in over 13 years...I guess that's not a bad run!

Anyhow, on with the latest V4 news and particularly some recent registrations.

### **RBO 764M – a zero carbon V4?? Well, not quite...**

You know how people always say that Saabs are driven by architects? Well, that may be a broad generalisation, but in this case it's absolutely true. Steven Harris wrote to me last summer with some great photos of his





96 outside the zero carbon home he and his wife Catherine (also an architect) have self-built in Monmouthshire, winning the Eco House category at the 2014 Daily Telegraph Homebuilding and Renovating Awards. Steven asked me to credit James French for the photo.

The 74 Torreador Red 96 certainly looks very much at home there, in fact it could almost be a Swedish countryside scene! Sadly the HB&R magazine article doesn't seem to mention the car; obviously not all home-geeks are also Saab-geeks.

Steve's registration form for RBO 764M shows that it's not just his home that is interesting. The car has some really



nice tweaks:

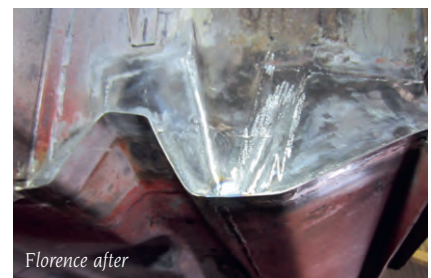
- A 1729cc engine (long throw crank) with double downdraft DCD Webber via 4 stud manifold.
- Low compression con rods and pistons, to keep head gaskets intact.
- Opened out heads to match Jetex exhaust.
- Unleaded valve seat inserts.
- Electronic ignition and modern alternator.
- Anti roll bar with nylon bushes.
- Custom dashboard and re-trimmed interior.

*"It was fully restored in 2000 and has done 50k miles since. It's now showing its age again and I'm slowly restoring it again. It has been on a SORN for three years, but I should have it back on the road for this (sorry, last!) summer. It was our everyday family/business car until then."*

With a mileage of over 235K, it's obviously a well used and well loved car. Sorry it's taken so long to feature it in the mag, Steve!

### 95s are definitely on the up!

I'm sure many of you are following Chris 'Redders' Redmond's 95 restoration on UKS and Facebook. Chris' effort and dedication are nothing short of spectacular. I know he was disappointed that 'Florence' would not be sufficiently mobile for the NEC Classic & Restoration Show earlier this year, but that's not through any lack of commitment. I'm really looking forward to seeing it in the



metal, hopefully at the National, Chris? I've nicked a few of Chris' before and after photos to show you the sort of attention to detail he is exhibiting on this project – I thought the C900 T16S was a fantastic restoration, but this one is building up to be even better!

John 'john-saab' Green was another long time Saab V4 fiend who bought one of the same batch of 'barn find' cars as Chris. His earlier 95 is about to begin a full restoration and I'm looking forward to watching that progress. John has a beautiful Verona green 95 already, 'Veronica', amongst other classic Saabs. The picture of Veronica was from a magazine shoot.

Joe Radda from Upper Heyford, not far