

MY **VERY** TRUSTED GARAGE

My own **very** trusted garage is, happily, in my home town of Burgess Hill, Mid Sussex. My first car was a FIAT 600 and I have always owned a FIAT, or Lancia, ever since. When I moved to Burgess Hill in 1979 I was pleased to note a large FIAT garage in the town. At that time I owned a 127 and soon made myself a nuisance at the dealership, TILLEYS at that time. A director and the workshop manager was Mike Reed who I soon learnt to trust with his wealth of technical knowledge and his very reassuring manner. Over all the years Mike has “saved my bacon” on many occasions. But times change, the FIAT garage became a Peugeot garage, Becks, although still with Mike at the helm of the workshops. Finally the garage closed and now a Cooperative Convenience store occupies the site. Happily Mike & Sue Reed together with a small team of experienced technicians opened up their own business as X-BeX (Get it?) My own Barchetta has been entrusted to X-BeX for various work including welding and cam-belt changes.

As membership secretary of our club I do receive requests for reliable repair facilities. By coincidence two new members, both from Sussex, recently asked where they could go for help with air-bag dashboard light problems and consequential MOT failures.

Firstly Paul Richards of Lewes contacted me having been told by his main FIAT dealer that current diagnostic equipment

would not interrogate Barchetta electronics. I sent him to X-BeX. Although it meant obtaining additional equipment Dave at X-BeX was able to resolve the issue to Paul's satisfaction and obtain an MOT for him. Paul said, "I was grateful to be put in touch with X-BeX. When the FIAT dealer seemed unable to help I realised that this might be a difficult issue to resolve, thankfully Mike and his team were undaunted."

No sooner was the little car happily away with a new MOT than Chris Wood from Graffam West Sussex was telling me about a similar problem with his car. Chris had been to three different garages, two of them auto electrics specialists, but none had resolved his air-bag light problem. Again X-BeX was recommended and I know Dave went to extraordinary lengths to identify the issue. Result; another happy customer with MOT in hand. Chris said, "As soon as I met Mike Reed I realised he was a man I could trust. I am so pleased to have my car sorted after so many failed attempts."

Mike Reed commented, "We work hard to resolve any problem that we are presented with. I am very pleased to have helped the Barchetta Club members. Our relationship with FIAT cars goes back a long way and I have always had affection for the Barchetta, it is a special little car."



Dave with Mike Reed of X-BeX Burgess Hill

So there is my heartfelt recommendation for a trusted garage in Mid Sussex. I am confident that anyone living or visiting this area and needing assistance would be delighted with Mike and his team.

Martin Garrad
Membership Secretary