

Sunbeam Talbot 10, Open Tourer, made in Coventry by the Rootes Group 1938

“Lily” is a 1939 model year open 4 seater, bodied by Whittingham & Mitchell. The ST 10s were also produced in Drop Head Coupe and Saloon Formats.

She is powered by a 1.1 Litre 10 HP Side-Valve engine, just about keeping up with traffic today, the Zenith Downdraught Carb’ giving her quite a distinctive sound.

It is believed that less than 20 pre-war cars exist globally with only a handful in running condition. The type continued after the war up until about 1948.

Lily may be unique as she is equipped with wire-spoked wheels, with the Talbot logo on the spinners, perhaps as a factory fitted option to the pressed steel wheels as standard.

Roots to Rootes! From 1909 to 1926 Sunbeam cars won races and regularly broke speed records. 150 mph in 1926 & 203.44 mph in the following year.

The Clement-Talbot Company was established in London in 1902 and a Talbot car, in 1913, became the first vehicle to cover more than 100 m.p.h.

By 1914 the Company had won more than 100 first awards

The two distinguished names were merged under the Rootes banner in the mid-30's, along with Hillman, Humber, and others.

Rootes launched this Sunbeam Talbot, as one of the first examples of “Badge Engineering” as the Sunbeam Talbot differed in very few ways over its predecessor the Talbot 10 and Hillman Minx.



Lily was sold to a Lady residing in Sloane Avenue London in 1939 at a cost new of about £235.00. Lily disappeared on the UK Radar until she turned up at the docks in Southampton in 1989. It is thought that she was exported at some time to the U.S.A. Owners since she returned were the importer and 3 others, one of whom refurbished her with his Son in Law to the current condition.

Back in the UK she was given a Scottish date-related registration mark by the DVLA, but there are documents suggesting her true identity as **FXY 403**.

Extensive research is on-going to confirm this with the DVLA, however, the current thinking is that she was purchased by the British branch of a family business just prior to WWII for a Jewish Lady fleeing to London from the terrible circumstances in pre-war Austria as the Nazis began to tighten their grip on mainland Europe.

“Lily” was acquired by the current owner in February 2015. The previous owners were quite attached to her, and as she was their wedding car asked for her name to be preserved. Note the presence of confetti today.