

DIXIE
FINE

Chris takes Babushka across Siberia!



David Wortley



David's big adventure began in 1966 when he was a 16-year-old schoolboy. His parents worked very hard to send him on an amazing school trip to Moscow, a place far beyond their usual camping holidays.



The trip was organized
by his teacher, 'Gert'
Tromans, who taught
David Russian. Learning
to read and speak a little
Russian was very special
and unusual back then!



The journey was
incredible! They traveled
by train, crossing countries
like the Netherlands,
Belgium, and West
Germany. David even
remembered armed
guards checking passports
as they crossed the Berlin
Wall.



In Moscow, they stayed
in a hotel overlooking
the famous Red Square
and Lenin's mausoleum.

After five nights, they
journeyed by train to
Leningrad, now called St.
Petersburg, for another
five nights.



It was in a cozy
basement room in
Leningrad that David
watched the 1966 Soccer
World Cup final, cheering
as England beat West
Germany. What an
exciting memory!



Their journey home was
by boat, stopping in
Helsinki and Copenhagen
before arriving at Tilbury
docks in London. It was
an epic first trip outside
the UK for David.



Fifty years later, in 2016,
David reconnected with
an old schoolmate, Pete
Milsom. Pete told David
about another friend,
Chris Blakey, who was
planning an
extraordinary adventure!



Chris was going to drive his special 1932 Austin 7 car, nicknamed 'Babushka,' all the way across Siberia to the Rugby World Cup in Tokyo! This 'Trans-Siberian Challenge' was inspired by past adventures and new friendships.



Chris needed help capturing his journey, so David offered to give him a GoPro camera and teach him how to take pictures and videos to share online. David was excited to be a part of it!



David recorded the official launch of Chris's trip at a car festival. A few weeks later, Chris made his first stop at David's house before they both drove to their old school in Boston.



In his MG Mini car, David followed Chris, taking panoramic photos and videos. They drove into their old playground at Boston Grammar School, inspiring a new generation of students.



From there, Chris continued his journey, with David receiving pictures and videos at every stop with internet access. Chris even had a Russian passenger named Illya join him for part of the trip.



Illya arranged for Chris to lead a vintage car parade in Red Square, which was shown on Russian TV! David documented all these amazing adventures from his home in the UK.



Even though David was far away, he felt like he was traveling with Chris, sharing every exciting moment. It was a wonderful way to experience the adventure together.



Chris eventually flew home from Tokyo, and his precious car 'Babushka' was shipped by sea. David met Chris again at a school dinner, where Chris shared his incredible tales and brought Babushka along.



David is incredibly grateful to have been part of Chris's 'impossible' adventure and hopes by sharing this story, it will inspire others to believe in their own big dreams.



In 1966, two friends named Chris and David visited Moscow. The snowy streets and tall towers sparked a lifelong dream of adventure.