

**You are about to discover a secret. A secret hidden behind the doors of an archway garage.**

**Until today those doors have stayed firmly closed and no-one has been able to see inside.**

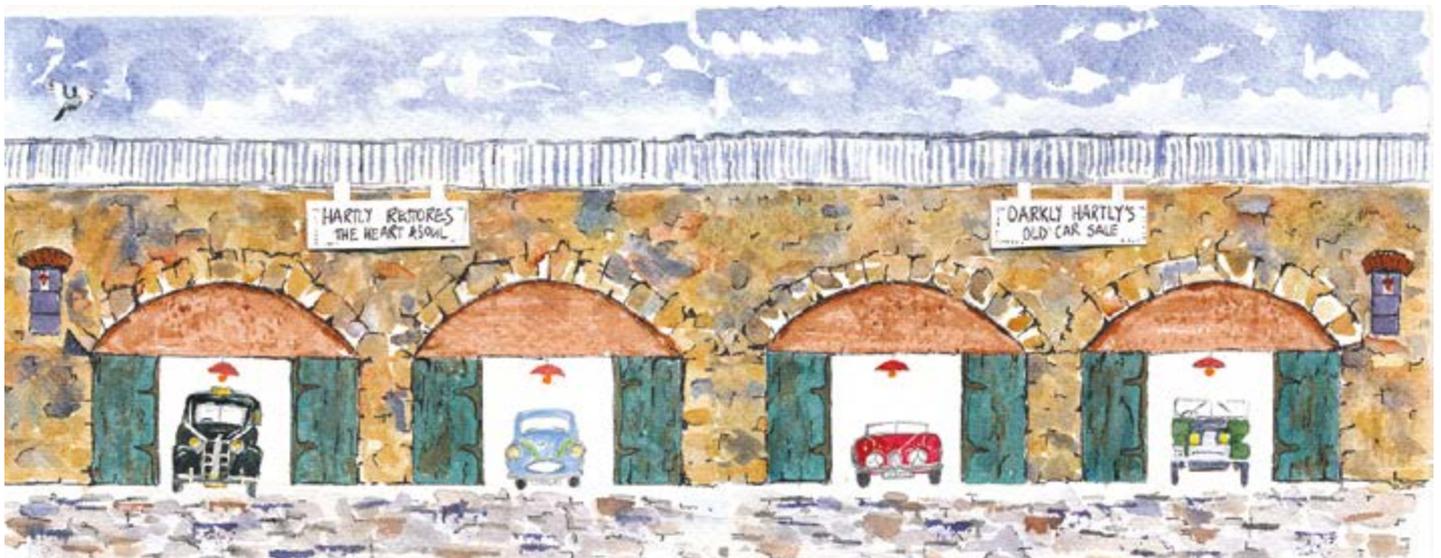
**No-one except Albert Hartly.**

**Albert has spent his whole life inside that garage looking after some very special cars, carefully rebuilding each one and then teaching them all new skills.**

**This is his secret. They are the first cars in the world to be able to think and to talk and to drive themselves!**

**Albert should be happy, but he is sad. He feels that the cars don't need him any more, so he has just handed over the keys of the garage to his son. The problem is, his son doesn't understand old cars and *Darkly* Hartly has plans of his own.**

**Our story starts in the early morning as, at last, the garage doors open ...**





## Who's Who in Cabby's World



**Albert Hartly**, the best car restorer in the world.



**Beastly** is Darkly's Scammell Highwayman, a bully of a car transporter.



**Cabby** inherited his large bonnet from his Grandad, whose 'Knowledge of London' has never been beaten. Cabby tries to be a 'gentleman' like him.



**Darkly Hartly** doesn't understand old cars like his Dad does.



**Larry** longs to drive off road and before he left London the biggest hill he had climbed was a little pile outside the Zoo.



**Molly** used to run a poodle pampering service in the back of her Moggy in town. In the country she thinks it might suit chickens.



**Pee Gee**, the London pigeon, had never met a country bird until he followed the cars to see what Beastly was up to.



**Roama** the Mobile Hoama loves a brew with a view.



**Scarlet's** only experience of the country, until now, had been a picnic in a London park.



**Sea Gee**, the Sea Gull, likes Pee Gee's shaggy bird stories.



**Van Dam** the Camper Van has been everywhere, man.



**Lola McKie** has a Scottish surname because her great grandmother once looked over Hadrian's Wall, but Lola came south and used her head for training and her heart for painting.



**Brooky** came down from his ancestor's castle on a hill, travelled widely, worked hard, invented a few things and then enjoyed messing around in cars ... and writing stories.

