

LAND ROVER CLUBS

new this month

to interact
e vehicles.
l or a
know a
a special
s enough to
-fire

u, so don't
ur ideas,

ig else
contact
on.

CONTACT US

ITEMS FOR possible inclusion should be sent to
**LRM Clubs Page, 2 Brickfields Business Park,
Woolpit, Suffolk, IP30 9QS.**

Alternatively you can email julie@lrm.co.uk
phone 01359 240066 or fax 01359 244221

Pongo mania

by Julie Gates

'PONGO' STARTED life as a Series II truck cab with a 2.25-litre petrol engine but today exists as a soft top complete with a V8 unit.

Jason Wildman, a member of the **Beds, Herts and Cambs Land Rover Club** (www.bhclrc.com) needed a vehicle that would be a family car, trialer, towing mule, daily runaround and pride and joy, all rolled into one. After nearly nine months of work, it has been achieved.

The original idea was to fit a V8 engine, but with the help of his neighbour Gary, they transformed the vehicle from an under-powered Series II to one capable of tackling all that's thrown its way.

After dismantling the vehicle, they were left with the rear axle, chassis and tub. Having sourced the rebuilt V8 engine, a three-speed automatic gearbox, a Range Rover coil sprung front axle and power steering system, along with the wings, bonnet and bulkhead from a 110, work could finally begin.

The chassis turned out to be in good nick so work could start on modifying the power steering, engine and gearbox mountings to install the new, removable cross members in their new positions.



Once all of this was in place, the front axle was modified to a leaf sprung version. This was because parts were readily available – and cheap. Although a difficult job, once completed with modified shock absorbers, the turning circle was improved to be tighter than that of a Nissan Almera.

Once a roll cage was fitted and final work had been completed on the electronics, brakes, power steering, radiator, front panel and grille, it was time to see if their hard graft had paid



off. After three attempts, Pongo came to life and, although there were niggles that needed seeing to, the

improvement in torque and power was immediate.

Although there are minor tweaks that Jason would like to make and it cost more than budgeted, he wouldn't change it for the world. After all, what would he replace such a unique vehicle with?

