



Poor old Dad (and me!)

Chapter One

The Long and Winding Road to Radio 2

'Roads are literally the pathways, not only of industry, but of social and national intercourse.'

Sir Thomas Telford

Roads and cars seem to have been a constant throughout my life. It appears that I have unwittingly continued a family tradition that started almost two generations ago with my grandfather working at the Austin motor works in Longbridge, Birmingham.

Longbridge was one of Britain's longest running and most renowned car factories, founded by Herbert Austin, later Sir Herbert, in 1905. Austin was born in the Chilterns in 1866, and after a brief stint in Australia he came back to England to work for a car company set up by his friend Frederick Wolseley. He left after ten years to found his own.

The site at Longbridge was discovered when Herbert Austin's youngest daughter, Zeta Lambert, suggested that her dad and the entire staff of three at the Austin Motor Company should explore the area around Birmingham for a new site. So they set off, in his Wolseley 7.5hp, complete with a picnic basket attached to the front, and discovered a