

## SPECIALIST



### TICK OVER

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As south London is probably the spiritual home of the Ford Capri, it's entirely fitting that one of its leading specialists is also located in the capital. Tick Over was started some 20 years ago by the brothers Clive and Angus Tick, who were ardent Capri fans. Clive, especially, found that there was good money to be made from breaking up comatose Capris and also it was much more fun than being an industry geologist. Before he knew it, Tick Over was born, when Angus quit the world of estate agency.

Originally the company was based in Bexleyheath in Kent, but in 2011 the brothers up-sticks and moved to a larger more purpose built premises in Dartford which it is currently modifying, with a dedicated spares and paintshop area.

With a staff of only four, Tick Over will mend or modify your Capri, from a simple service to slotting in Cosworth YB and V8 engines, from as little as £58 + VAT per hour. And, it is open 9-5.30 weekdays and half day on Saturday.

The brothers say that, while Capris account for around 80 per cent of business, mostly Mk2s and Mk3s these days, they do work on similar old school Fords and it's something their company wants to expand on. Not because business is floundering (indeed its body shop is booked solid until March) but because old Fords in general are becoming hot stuff, and this includes more seasoned classics. For example, when we dropped in, a Mk1 Cortina fitted with a Capri 2.8i engine was being sorted out.

Certainly people are beginning to spend serious money on their Capris and, luckily, Tick Over has vast stash of spares. It's heart-breaking to break up any Capri in any condition but as Angus says, "If it saves five or six cars then it's worthwhile".

A typical thorough service costs under £200 while, if you fancy a hotter engine, the brothers will fit something like a YB Cosworth unit or say a V8 for around £3000 ready to roll, if you supply the engine. On the other hand, Angus is no fan of Zetec conversions which he says aren't worth the hassle or expense, which can cost double to fit a YB. Five-speed gearbox conversions seem to have died away, probably because most owners now have it now anyway, but uprating brakes is always a popular mod.

Plans for 2012 include expanding the on-line product sales department, where 1200 lines already reside, and making it more known that Tick Over isn't simply about Capris.

In fact Angus' wife has quit her job to concentrate on promoting these areas.

With genuine RS models making £20,000 or more, the days of the cheap Capri are almost over. But while Tick Over occasionally sells cars (and there's a Chevy-engined Mk3 that's just being finished and yours for £10,000) it won't get into retailing them full time – there's no point with eBay says Angus.

Both brothers love Capris so they have at least one each - right? Well, not really. Angus runs an A-reg 2.8i Turbo Technics model that he's owned for many years but Clive doesn't. "I wish I could afford one", he told us, only half jokingly...

