

The team at Kew-based Chris and Chris Motors Limited tell their extraordinary story of how motor vehicle repairs started on their site more than 100 years ago.

Christos Kyriacou, the garage manager explains: "I started work on this site in 1975 when I came to London from Cyprus. The site was then operated by Westons Garage.

"Westons were a British dealership that started to repair cars and motor cycles here from 1915 when cars were becoming more popular with the general public.

"They passed the business through three generations modernising and refurbishing the site as they went through the First and Second World Wars.

"By the mid 1980s, as the third generation of Weston family was retiring, they wanted to close the business. I was the workshop foreman and manager, and together with Christopher Parsons who was a senior technician at that time, we decided to take it over.

"It was hard to let the business go, especially as customers we had known for years did not want to see the workshop close down, this encouraged us to preserve the history of the garage."

Christopher Parsons adds: "I started at Westons as a 16 year old apprentice. This was the only workplace I knew. Christos and I decided to continue the workshop and look after our loyal clients.

"By 1986, I had achieved my Level 3 City and Guild Certificate in Motor Vehicle Repairs and in 1988, was awarded the National Craft Certificate as a Vehicle Mechanic. Subsequently, I qualified as an MOT Tester in 1994.

"In motor vehicle repairs it is essential you earn the trust of customers. We believed that the best way to succeed is to continue the tradition of fair pricing and good workmanship at Westons.

"We renamed the company as Chris and Chris Motors to simplify matters and overcome complications of being the franchised dealership that Westons had become.

"We are proud of our heritage and we want to preserve and further develop this great relationship of respect and trust that we have with all our clients, some of whom we have known for more than 40 years."



DRIVING FORCE

Celebrating 100 years of motor vehicle repairs at Chris and Chris Motors, Kew



Senior technician Parviz explains a bit about his background and how he joined Chris and Chris Motors which today has a total workforce of five technicians...

Parviz says: "I joined Chris and Chris about four years ago. I had been manager and foreman at West London Autos in Chiswick for about 15 years.

"I had qualified as an engineer from The City University in London in 1987, and qualified as an MOT Tester in 1994.

"As soon as I joined Chris and Chris, I knew we shared a common philosophy which is total honesty to customers.

"I have always believed that the best way to maintain happy customers is to treat our customer's cars as if they were our own. It is a very special feeling to have this history and heritage

behind us and to feel we are continuing the same work that our predecessors have been doing here for 100 years.

Christos explained the decision behind expanding the workforce three years ago: "When Christopher and I started here, we were younger than the other workers and, as in any profession, time moves on and new cars and better technology is introduced.

Christopher adds: "In 2012, we brought Parviz in and since he was a workshop manager himself, he brought his experience and new ideas which was vital in improving our services.

Parviz said: "When I joined Chris

and Chris, I loved the fact that they were so traditional in their work practices and they had maintained the same level of professionalism for over 40 years.

"However, as times change, we needed more technology orientated technicians to combine and complement our values and workmanship.

"That is why we had Roberto and Sylvester join our little family as they are both very experienced and knowledgeable in modern vehicle repairs.

"Sylvester was trained by Fiat and became a qualified technician in 2002. He is a quiet and steady service technician. We

subsequently brought Roberto who is very skilled in modern vehicle diagnostics and electrical repairs. This was an area that we thought needed improving and Roberto has helped us achieve a complete range of skills needed for today's vehicles."

Finally Chris adds: "Our aim has always been to uphold the trust that our clients placed in us and make sure that we continue to provide the best service possible for as long as possible; and just maybe in 100 years from today, a new generation of engineers will carry on the tradition as we remember the pioneers that started this place 100 years ago."

We are very proud of our heritage and unique history here. We certainly want to preserve and further develop this great relationship of respect and trust that we have with all our clients, some of whom we have known for more than 40 years.

Christopher Parsons