

British Automobile



September 2023

A publication of the British Transportation Museum
321 Hopeland Street, Dayton, OH 45417

<https://www.britishtransportationmuseum.org>

Open Saturdays and Mondays from 10am to 4pm.
Museum tours are available by appointment.

Contact Pete Stroble 937-546-0039 btmpres@gmail.com

The British Transportation Museum (BTM) is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity dedicated to preserving our British motoring heritage through education and vehicle preservation. ©2021 British Transportation Museum. All Rights Reserved

Peter Stroble, President (vacant), Vice-President

Dean Anderson, Treasurer Steven Solomon, Membership

Members at Large: Bill Jacobs, Caroline Shinkle,

Paul Strieby and Steven Solomon

Karl Strauch, Newsletter Editor stlmadmen@aol.com

NEXT MEETING – 7pm Sept 20th (3rd Wednesday)

2023 Ohio Mini Owners show schedule

Sept 19-21 Put-In-Bay Sports Car Races, PIB Island Airport

Oct 4-7 CMU Mods & Rockers Minis, KOA Wytheville, VA

Rockabilly band with an opening 60's group

Oct 14 Performance Charity Car Show, downtown Delaware

Oct 21 - BTM Annual Chili Cook Off and Cruise In

New BTM Addition, 1954 Austin FX3 Taxi



Stop the press! A 1954 Austin FX3 London Taxi has just been acquired by the British Transportation Museum. In a rare move, we actually spent money, at a bargain price, to acquire this iconic bit of British transportation.

The FX3 has the traditional 3-door design with an open luggage platform beside the driver (right hand drive of course). It has mechanical brakes with a front beam axle and leaf springs all-around. A Jackall hydraulic jacking system is fitted for quick tyre changes. We've always been afraid of testing these jacking systems but maybe it is time to give it ago.

It is going to require a lot of TLC but all of the rare Taxi bits are there. The fare meter, 'For Hire' light, and side lights are in place. The gages on the dash are excellent, just need cleaning. It has good straight bumpers and grill. The diesel engine turns over by hand, which is definitely a good sign. A starter is laying on the floor and that is probably why the past owner found it in a Towing yard in Elgin, IL. Is the starter a replacement or is it the defective one? Time to test it out.

The bad side is the past body repairs from all of the fender benders are coming apart. Thick slabs of bondo are coming off the metal fenders and showing the old repair welds. The rust is not bad, hopefully a wire brush and rust encapsulator will save the day. The tyres are heavily weather checked with only inner tubes keeping air in them.

In researching the FX3, this Taxi turned up as being on the RM Sotheby's auction block at Auburn, IN in 2016. It doesn't look like anyone did any significant restoration in the years since. She deserves better and we are going to give a chance. Can you help support this work? Donate for the purchase of four tyres? Thanks!

Three Monkees who retrieved the Taxi, L to R, Pete Stroble, James Dean, and Clyde Collins. ...



British Transportation Museum Burns the Mortgage

It happens to most of us who've ever owned property ... the day when the last mortgage payment is made and the property finally is ours. The British Transportation Museum (BTM), America's largest collection of British cars, buses, and motorcycles, made that last payment on July 1, 2023 and Pete Stroble, BTM President, celebrated it by burning the mortgage at British Car Day on August 5th.



The museum was founded in 1998 and incorporated as a non-profit corporation. It was the dream of British car enthusiasts Dick Smith, John Wolf, Mike Edgerton, and Mike Smith. After renting several different buildings over the years mostly just for storage, the museum finally acquired its own building in 2015. Located at 321 Hopeland St. in Dayton, the building formerly housed Imperial Packaging and was originally built in 1913 as a Kroger Warehouse.

The museum's collection consists of 63 vehicles. Some are in show condition, some a bit on the rough side. The MG Club and Triumph Club each have a project car that members are helping to restore. While little has been done to the building except for critical upkeep, no longer having a mortgage to pay will allow the museum to start renovations.

Museum hours are 10 to 4 on Saturdays and Mondays. Admission is free, but there is a box for donations. The only sources of income are donations and memberships, so please consider joining to help make the British Transportation Museum another one of Dayton's "Gems."

Three New Vehicle Acquisitions at BTM

Crazy busy times at the British Transportation Museum, all in a good way. To top off the 1954 Austin FX3 Taxi in the last issue of the BMCCN, three more interesting vehicles have come into our possession. A beautiful 1972 MGB GT from Illinois, a 1972 Reliant Regal from here in our own backyard, and a 1969 Innocenti Mini from Florida



The 1972 MGB GT was donated by Dr. Jack Feldman of Downers Grove, IL. It has been very well taken care of in the 29 years that Jack has owned it. It has been heavily personalized with many options you don't often see. The engine bay is spotless with a modern fuse block and added relays to protect the wiring. The over bored engine has a mild state of tune with cam and head work that allows twin 1 3/4 SU's to be effective. An overdrive transmission can use the extra power to cruise with no effort. Oversize wheels and tyres with suspension mods complete the package.



To make the driving experience more enjoyable Jack added a modern sound system plus cruise control, power windows & door locks, and auxiliary lighting. The literal crown is the OEM Webasto sunroof in perfect condition. All of this made for comfortable trips to several National MG gatherings that Jack attended. Jack is celebrating his 90th birthday and we are honored to carry on his passion for MG cars for future generations to learn from and enjoy. Thanks Jack!

Very recently a **1972 Reliant Regal** was donated by Lois and Don Bigler who have owned it for 22 years. They had bought it from a fellow in Cincinnati who had set it up to be towed behind his motorhome which, we were told, he never did. It was set aside with a carb leak that never got resolved.



This all-fiberglass vehicle is a 3/30 which stands for 3 wheels and 30 HP. It also has the 21E package for the 21 extra options that were added. This included spot and fog lights, chrome trim pieces, carpet, spare tyre, chrome hub caps, and numerous other minor bits. The body is two pieces, inner and outer, that are bonded together and bolted to a steel chassis. Lois weighed theirs in at 900 lbs. 110,000 Regals were produced before production ceased in 1973.

The Regal is powered by a 700cc OHV 4 cylinder all aluminum head and block with a single Zenith downdraught carb. Fuel economy of 65 MPG made it popular. The engine sits just behind the single front wheel that steers the "car". The 4-speed aluminum transmission feeds the rear drive wheels.



I put "car" in quotes as the 3 wheel Reliant was engineered to be taxed as a motorcycle. Here in Ohio, if the vehicle has a steering wheel and a normal upright seating, you do not need a motorcycle driver's license even though it is considered a motorcycle.

The quiriness of the 3-wheel configuration is going to make the Reliant a popular attraction at BTM. It drives like a normal car with the squared off body not giving it away that it has only 3 wheels. Just don't try to do any spirited cornering maneuvers ala "Top Gear".

The third car to join us is a **1969 Innocenti Mini**. It was built in Italy under license from British Leyland with early ones built from "CKD" knock down kits. Ours lived its life in Italy until it was imported in 2014 to Florida. A generous benefactor, Michael Slominski, offered to fund the purchase of the Inno as a fundraiser for BTM. We now have it and are preparing it for sale by fixing the little issues that we see.



The Inno has all of the Italian features that make them desirable. There are design touches that are an upgrade for any Mini. The oleo and aqua gauges always bring a smile. It is the last of the sliding door window cars and it has a clever, easy to use, internal door release. The interior is a stunning blue and white that is probably custom built.

The 850cc motor was quick to start and pulls strong. The rubber trumpet suspension handles well. The twin leading shoe brakes do a great job. It is a nice driving package.



Keep your eyes and ears open as this Innocenti might be coming to market soon.

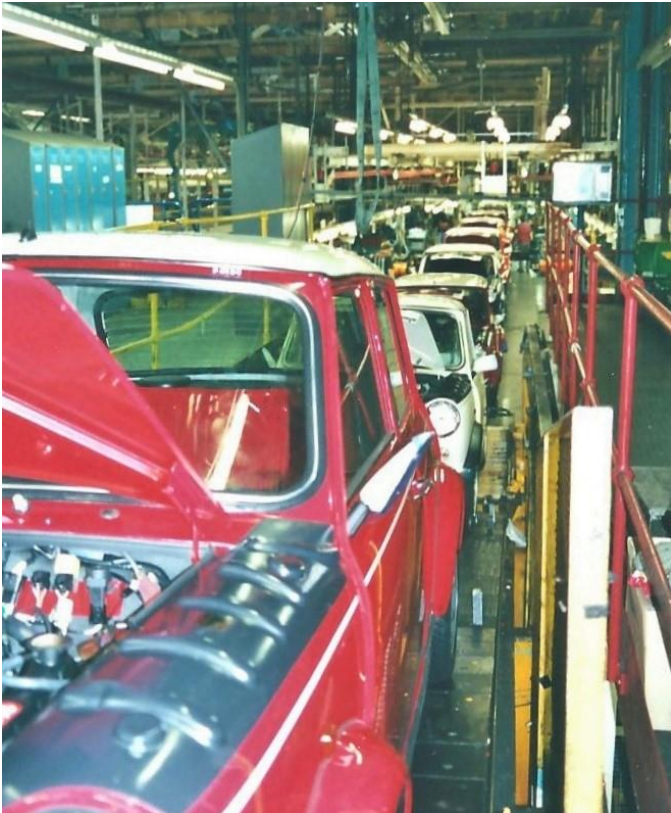
Speaking about Minis ...

by Karl Strauch

Here are two photos that I took during my 1999 tour of the Rover Mini factory at Longbridge in Birmingham, including the body fabrication line ...



... and the main assembly line ...



... which also assembled the 1995-2002 MGF ...



Can you image the fun that the workers had as groups of RHD and LHD Front-engine front-drive Minis and mid-engine rear-drive MGFs alternately came down the line?



Current major British car manufacturers

(Information from Wikipedia website)

Aston Martin (since 1913)

Gaydon, St.Athan – DBS, DB11, DBX, Vantage, Valkyrie

Bentley (since 1919) Parent CO: **Volkswagen**

Crewe – Azure, Brooklands Coupe, Continental Flying Spur, Continental GT, Mulsanne

GM Manufacturing Parent CO: **Adam Opel AG**

Luton – Opel/Vauxhall Vivaro, Renault Trafic, Nissan Primaster

Jaguar (since 1935) Parent CO: **Tata** in India

Casrle Bromwich – XF, XJ, XK, F-Type

Land Rover (since 1948) Parent CO: **Tata** in India

Halewood – Land Rover Discovery, Sport, Range Rover Evoque

Solihul – Land Rover Defender, Discovery 4, Range Rover, Range Rover Sport

Lotus (since 1952) Parent CO: **Geely** in China

Hethel – Elise, Exige, Evora

McLaren (since 1985)

Woking – MP4-12C, P1, P1 GTR, 570S, 650S, 675LT, 540C, 570GT

MINI (since 1959) Parent CO: **BMW**

Plant Oxford – Clubman, Convertible, Coupe, Roadster, Hardtop/Hatch

Rolls-Royce (since 1904) Parent CO: **BMW**

Goodwood – Ghost, Phantom, Phantom Coupe, Phantom Drophead Coupe

Vauxhall (since 1903) Parent CO: **Adam Opel AG**

Ellsmere Port – Opel/Vauxhall Astra

List of current British car manufacturers ...

Website: [British Car Manufacturers \(carsut.com\)](http://carsut.com)

As you can see from the list, there are several car manufacturers who have been playing a role in the automobile industry for more than a century. Currently, the longest surviving British car manufacturer is Daimler. If you are in the market for high quality car, British cars are without doubt one of the best to be in your choice.

AC (since 1908) – One of the few notable AC cars are AC Cobra.

Ariel (since 1999)

Crewkerne – Ariel Atom

Ascari (since 1995)

Aston Martin (since 1921) – Aston Martin makes cars like no others, otherwise why James Bond always uses it?

Bentley (since 1919) – The Bentley was born in England. It builds high-performance cars with discreet British elegance. If it talks, it must have a very sweet British accent.

Berkeley (since 1991)

Bristol (since 1946)

Brooke (since 1991)

Caparo (since 2006)

Caterham (since 1973)

Dartford – R400, CSR260

Connaught Motor Company (since 2004)

Daimler (since 1896) – One of the earliest car manufacturers in United Kingdom.

Eterniti Motors (since 2010) – A new comer in automobile industry.

Farboud (since 2004)

Aquada (since 2004)

Ginetta (since 1957)

Grinnall (since 1993)

Invicta (since 2004)

Jaguar (since 1945) – One of the very famous car brands in the world.

JZR (founded 1989)

Land Rover (since 1948)

Lea-Francis (founded 1903)

Lister (founded 1954)

Locost (since 1995)

Lotus (since 1951) "*An awesome tour*" Karl. 1999

McLaren (founded 1969)

MINI (since 2001, the original Mini was introduced in 1959) – Millions of MINIs have been sold worldwide since 2001, any more to say? **AMEN!**



MK Indy (since 1996)

Morgan (since 1910) "*An awesome tour*" Karl. 1999
Hethel – Morgan Aero 8, Morgan Plus 4



Noble (since 1998)

Nova (since 1971)

Prodrive (since 1984)

Radical (since 1997)

Rolls-Royce (since 1904) – Goodwood, West Sussex



Trident (since 1999)

Triking (since 1978)

TVR (since 1954)

Blackpool – Sagaris, Tuscan, T350, Tamora

Ultima (since 1992)

Vauxhall (since 1903)

Westfield (since 1982)




British Transportation Museum's

Chili COOK-OFF

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 21**

4:00PM-7:00PM
321 HOPELAND AVE
DAYTON OH 45417

**TICKETS:
\$10 DONATION**

For tickets, more info, or to enter cook-off please contact Amanda at btmkids1@gmail.com or 937.238.8451

SCAN THE CODE TO ENTER YOUR CHILI



Dessert provided by



Proceeds benefit the British Transportation Museum
britishtransportationmuseum.org



Bring your best chili recipe and **WIN** the 7th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sponsored by the British Transportation Museum

Awards for:

Best Overall Chili (guest judge will select)
People's Choice

Contestants will participate in an *all in any style* cook-off. Plan on bringing your favorite chili to be served to the crowd.

Details and Rules:

1. Each contestant must bring a minimum of 3 quarts of each type of chili submitted in the cook-off. Remember, the more chili you bring, the more votes you can receive!
2. Contestants are responsible for bringing their own heat source (crock-pot, etc...) as well as any unique toppings that are *specific* to your recipe.
3. Serving spoons and ladles will be provided.
4. Set up will be from 3:30pm-4:00pm on October 21st.

The primary reason for this event is to have fun and raise money for the British Transportation Museum.

To enter your chili in the cook-off, please contact:
Amanda | btmkids1@gmail.com | 937.238.8451

Deadline to enter your chili is Wednesday, October 18.

Cost: \$10.00 (includes chili entry fee and ticket to event)

