

British Automobile



August 2026

**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.

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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.

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Members at Large:

Paul Strieby, John Kovalo, Sean Hogan

Nathan Vaughn, Newsletter Editor

Have a relevant story to share? Send it over!

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Next meeting Wednesday August 19th. Always the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Membership renewal reminder: Please remember to renew your membership on the website or in person if you haven't already!

Don't forget to check the box to get the newsletter sent to your inbox if you would like.

<https://www.britishtransportationmuseum.org/memberships>

BTM's fiberglass MINI being readied for display

BTM has enlisted the help of the British car club of greater Cincinnati, AK.A. BCCGC, to help get our snazzy new fiberglass display piece ready for prime time. Hanging it on an outside wall would be faithful to it's original purpose as a marketing tool and also look super cool, but we'll have to see if the building and local ordinances are up to it. Membership opinion will likely also be sought. If we go that route, the plan would be to add timer-activated LED lighting to help the museum stand out.



In the meantime, it's being worked over and improved for everyone to enjoy for years to come.



Fiberglass repair on the MINI



New BTM decals on MINI

As part of a thorough restoration process, BCCGC is going all out with fiberglass repairs and underbody painting, as well as attractive updates such as a decal to advertise BTM. LEDs have also been added to the tail, fog, and marker lights, promoting realism. A racing stripe has also been added.



New racing stripes on the MINI

BCCGC will be displaying the MINI at their car show on September 24th, after which it will make it's way back to BTM. Thanks to BCCGC for their restoration expertise and hard work!

Yellow 1977 MG-B donated to BTM

Recently, Linda and Bill Bothwell made a generous donation of their '77 MG-B to BTM. Needless to say, I couldn't put the story of the car and donation any better than they can, so here's the scoop in their own words. In addition, they also provided a detailed list of repairs, known issues, and parts included. Thank you Linda and Bill!



Linda purchased the MG on November 15, 1979 from Tri-County Toyota in Fairfield, Ohio. It was in wonderful condition, she was thrilled to have it, and we were having fun cruising around Hamilton, Ohio where we lived. In September of 1980, we drove it to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and we got married there. Within months, we decided to pack up and move to Virginia Beach, Virginia. During the trip, Linda drove the MG while Bill drove our 1967 green VW Bus.

Living near the beach was fun because the weather was perfect for cruising in the MG with the top down. Linda drove it almost daily to and from work. We lived there for 8 years. In 1987, we decided to move back to Hamilton. The MG was towed home on a trailer behind the moving truck that Bill drove. After that, the MG was stored inside a facility for several years.

In the 1990's we began the slow process of restoring it. But as the years went by, it didn't get driven as much. We always intended to drive it more after we retired. But life has a way of altering plans, and we both had health issues crop up that became our priority. Consequently, the MG continued to sit in storage much longer than we intended. These past couple of summers, we've had it out for spins around town. But sadly we both knew the time was coming that we were going to have to part with it. We looked at all of our different options, but couldn't decide what to do. Our car was worth more to us than the money we would get by selling it, and leaving it to family didn't feel right either.

Then one evening this past June, we decided to take it for a spin and we drove it to an arts center in downtown Hamilton. After parking it, a gentleman took notice of it and walked over and began talking to us. His name was Sean and he told us about the British Transportation Museum of which he was a member. He gave us a brochure and invited us to come to Dayton, Ohio to take a tour of the museum. Something clicked, and it was one of those moments where we both felt this was possibly "meant to be".



After visiting the museum, meeting Pete and James and the others, and witnessing the passion they have for the cars in their collection, it was a done deal for us! And so now, in 2026, our beloved little car is to become a part of that collection. We know it will be valued and cared for in the best possible way and we will rest knowing it has ended up where it was meant to be. Thank you BTM!



Linda and Bill with their '77 MG-B, generously donated to BTM

Building improvements making steady progress

You may recall the earlier and ongoing fund-raising drive to brick up the windows at BTM. Usually when someone puts a brick through your window it's a complementary expression of their disapproval. However, in our case, the old boarded up windows are both a security issue and a cosmetic issue, as well as a needless

drain on the utility budget. Although getting one or 2 bricks through your window at high velocity is usually free, acquiring large quantities and having them carefully arranged and installed certainly isn't. A big thank you to all the donors who have helped make this progress possible over the last ~6 months.

Because our powerball plans have not yet reached fruition, we have to pick our battles. This includes picking which windows to board up first. We have been focusing on the most vulnerable windows, near the fire escape and on the ground floor.



Ground floor windows bricked up

In addition to these improvements, there has been progress with adding an office to the main floor, as well as acquiring a fireproof safe that will help keep records and documents safe. Slowly but surely the museum continues to improve and solidify itself for the future!



Windows up by the fire escape bricked up

BTM listed in official Ohio publication

The state of Ohio officially admitted that Cedar point is all washed up and that BTM is the premier destination in the state of Ohio. Ok, fine, they haven't done that yet. But official recognition is official recognition. Check out this destination Dayton brochure Dave Roberson found during his travels.



1962 Daimler SP-250 from Bowling Green KY wins Dayton British car day

Not to be confused with the German Daimler, of Mercedes fame, the British Daimler was an innovative and fascinating manufacturer that was founded in London and operated for over a century in Coventry. Although the automaker is now defunct, the classics live on.

One such example, this beautiful '62 SP-250 owned by Gabe Buntzman of Bowling Green Kentucky won the best in show award for the

2026 Dayton British car day show held on August 2nd.

Although the rain resulted in lower turnout, approximately 150 cars were still present. BTM had the honor, as it does every year, of providing and presenting the trophy.

Not simply a garage queen, Gabe used the Daimler as a daily driver for a time up and down the east coast when he lived in the area. Cars are meant to be driven after all.

Naturally, BTM has a tent at the show as well. The event was a success for the museum, with a new member joining, as well as several donations. Thank You Dave Lindsey, Clyde Collins, and Terry Hapensack for helping set up and man the booth. Volunteer efforts like yours make the museum possible.

