

# Members Newsletter

October 2024  
Issue 11

## Welcome

BY JEFF COOPE, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**H**ello, and welcome to the October edition of the British Motor Museum Members' newsletter.

It has been an exciting and busy Summer here at the Museum with a full schedule of shows and events throughout, from the National Metro and Mini show and the Old Ford Rally to the BMC & Leyland Show and Vaux ALL, to name but a few. They have all been a great success and I hope that you have had an opportunity to enjoy some of them. We still have our last Gaydon Gathering of 2024 on 8 October to enjoy before the British weather moves us back indoors and our winter season begins.

It was heartwarming to hear that so many of you were able to attend the recent Members evening event for the opening of the "Sketch to Street" exhibition. The team put many hours work and dedication into the exhibition and, based on your wonderful feedback, it was well received and enjoyed by all. If you were not able to make the evening, the exhibition is open until April 2025.

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## Welcome continued

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has generously donated to the "Save OWL's Wings" campaign. As a charity, your support is invaluable and I am very happy to report that we have hit the halfway mark! There is still some way to go, but OWL's wings are now at the Leather Conservation Centre in advance of OWL joining us again in this year's London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. We will be able to tell you all about it in the next edition.

In this edition of your Members' newsletter you will...

- Meet Julia, our new Conference Operations Manager, who is excited to join the team at a point where there are so many new projects in the pipeline.
- Learn about some of the wonderful new donations to our Collections.
- Find out how we got on at the Festival of the Unexceptional.
- Learn a little more about our journey to ensuring the Museum is accessible to all and the award we are shortlisted for.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to introduce our new Chair of Trustees, Joel Kordan. Joel has been part of our Trustee's group for many years. He is a founding partner of the Birmingham office of international

law firm, Penningtons Manches Cooper, and has extensive experience in the automotive sector having acted for Mercedes on the development of Mercedes-Benz World at the historic Brooklands motor racing circuit; for VWFS on its UK HQ, and other high-profile deals. I can think of no one better to help lead the Trust into the ambitious and exciting future we have planned.

As always, we look forward to welcoming you, your friends and your families to the Museum in the near future. Be sure to keep an eye on our website for more news and information about our shows, events and upcoming Museum Lates, including Quiz Night!

Best wishes

*Jeff*

## Dates for your diary

8 October – Gaydon Gathering

14 October – Mini Motorists Mondays

26-27 October – Great British Model Railway Show

26 October - 3 November - Tech takes the Wheel October Half Term

2 November – Jaguar Breakfast Meet

12 November – Museum Lates: Quiz Night

16 November - Saturday Club, Animation Station

18 November – Mini Motorists Mondays

4 - 17 December - Festive Lunches

7 December – Jaguar Breakfast Meet

14 December - Saturday Club, Crafty Christmas

16 December – Mini Motorists Mondays



### 2025 Exhibition Dates

23 March – From Sketch to Street closes

4 April – The Gallery 2025 opens

29 June – The Gallery 2025 closes

17 July – 2025 Feature Exhibition opens

We will be releasing more details about 2025's Feature Exhibition in the coming months, so keep your eyes peeled...

Dates for 2025 events will also be coming soon! Keep an eye on the What's On page of our website for the latest information.



**Tap here for an up-to-date list of WHAT'S ON and to book tickets.**

# WEST MIDLANDS tourism awards 2025

## Access For All

BY THE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER TEAM

We are incredibly delighted to announce that we have been **shortlisted as a finalist** in the Accessible and Inclusive Tourism section of the West Midlands Tourism Awards 2025!



We have always endeavoured to create a space that is physically accessible to all. We have plenty of Blue Badge parking close to the entrance, lift access to all floors, and level floors within the Museum, Café and Collections Centre.

There are accessible toilets on all levels of the main building and downstairs in the Collections Centre. A Changing Places toilet can be found in the Museum Rotunda, equipped with a hoist, an adult-sized changing table, and plenty of space for carers. All carers enter free when accompanying a paying visitor with additional needs.

We have a number of wheelchairs that are available to borrow free of charge whilst visiting and the

layout of the Museum is always with mobility scooters in mind as much as possible. Guide, Assistance and Hearing Dogs are welcome, and we have Portable Induction Loops and ear defenders available for free.

This year we have also trialed special SEND friendly Access Days and this nomination has been a real endorsement of the progress we are making to be as Accessible and Inclusive as possible.

During our Access Days we offer a series of hands-on sensory Touch and Access Tours which bring the collection to life, allowing visitors to get up close and touch several of the cars. Early opening and late closing allow us to have relaxed hours between 9am & 10am and from 5pm to 6pm for those who prefer a quieter environment. Audiovisuals and hand dryers are switched off, and the lighting is lowered during these relaxed hours.

These Access Days have been met with great enthusiasm. Some feedback from the last one included:

*“Fantastic! My husband, 5-year old and I enjoyed a wonderful day here and are so glad we visited. The cars on display were fantastic, and we were happy to see that you’re able to get up-close and personal with the cars. You’re even able to sit in a few! While my 5-year old doesn’t have a diagnosis, he does have sensory sensitivities and finds things like sudden loud noises and hand dryers very*



## Access For All *continued*

*overwhelming at times. The small adjustments that had been made as part of the Accessibility Day meant that he was able to enjoy his day without getting overstimulated, which meant that us parents were able to enjoy our day a little more too. Accessibility is something all places of business can work on, and I'd like to applaud the British Motor Museum for their efforts. Please continue with the Accessibility Days, craft activities and workshops, and thank you for a fantastic day!"*

*"The accessible day did just what it said. It made what could have been a very busy, bustling day (to be honest we probably wouldn't have come) into a highly informative and accessible*

*opportunity that went above and beyond but didn't feel like we were a burden at all."*

*C (aged 13) "...The quiet room next to the arts and crafts was really helpful and there were so many fabulous cars. We also had the best tour possible, we got to learn everything about everything, and I would have paid at least 30 pounds for the tour alone."*

Our third Access Day is on Friday 20 December 2024, with the added Christmas bonus of Professor Pickle and Doctor Pumpkin looking at the science behind Santa's sleigh with gentle experiments to allow those who need a quiet atmosphere to join in the fun. We would encourage our Members to share the details with any friends and family who may find it of interest.



We have a number of ideas currently in progress and are always looking for ways to improve. If you have any suggestions or would like to provide your own feedback to help make the Museum as accessible and friendly as possible, we would be delighted to hear from you.



## Exploring Our Archive

BY LUKE THORNE, ARCHIVIST

This year the Museum's Archive Department is getting involved with the [Explore Your Archives Focus Week](#). Explore Your Archives is a social media campaign established by the Archives and Records Association for archives across the UK and Ireland to share records from their collections using the hashtag #EYA.

The Focus Week, which runs in late November, will have a different theme on each day and participating archives have to find something from their collection that matches with the theme on each day and share it.

It's quite a fun exercise to go looking through our collection and find something in the archive that would be relevant and interesting to share. It also provides us with an opportunity to share records that people may not be aware we have and to demonstrate how wide a scope our collections can actually cover both historically and socially.

If you regularly visit our X, Facebook and Instagram pages then you may have seen that we participated in the EYA Focus Week last year and presented a variety of items to fit in with the themes given to us. Some of the themes included were Expedition, Big, Small and Unique, which generated some really exciting ideas in the Archive Team.

We had many records and accounts to choose from about cars being driven around different parts of the world for the Expedition theme, but we decided to showcase segments of film footage from the 1956 Land Rover London to Singapore Expedition film, which featured many jungle and mountainous environments.

The Big and Small themes posed the interesting question of what were the biggest and smallest things we could find in our archive. The answer to these questions was a massive 20x10 feet BMC poster and a 'Flying A' Austin lapel pin, which was about the same size as a five pence coin! Featuring Alec Issigonis' baby shoe for the Unique theme was also a really fantastic way of showing something that you wouldn't expect to see in an archive and also something that is not only personal, but uniquely tied with our collection.

The themes for this year's EYA Focus Week will have been announced by the time of this newsletter's release, so our archive team will be hard at work looking for fascinating items to feature as you are reading this. We hope that you'll visit our X, Facebook and Instagram pages between 21 November and 30 November to see what we're going to share.



## New Donations

BY AMY FORSTER-SMITH, ASSISTANT CURATOR

We have had three generous vehicle donations to the collection in the first half 2024; a 1955 Hillman Californian, a 1973 Triumph Toledo and a 2013 Caterham AeroSeven concept car.

The Californian is only the second Rootes Group car to enter the permanent collection and was donated by David Welsh in memory of his wife, Eileen. They travelled many happy miles together in the car, on holidays, days out and to car shows, and will now be preserved in the Museum's collection – it is now on display on the Time Road.

The donation of the Toledo, revealed for the first time in this newsletter, is from one of our retired members of staff, Dennis Buxcey, who worked at the Museum from the day it opened in 1993! His father bought the car in 1975 and it was eventually passed on to Dennis who continued to use it until recently. It is still undergoing some minor mechanical work and valeting in the workshop but will be out on display soon.

Lastly, the AeroSeven concept car from Caterham was recently offered to the Museum. This donation was the result of our constant communication with various active manufacturers, as we are committed to contemporary collecting. Despite having an extensive historical collection showcasing the British motor industry, the industry is alive and well. The Caterham AeroSeven is the second concept car from the 21st century in the permanent collection, and the timing couldn't have been more perfect for our new exhibition, From Sketch To Street, which is where you can now find the Caterham on display.

We also have many artefacts donated to the Museum too, and this year many fascinating objects have entered the collection from generous members of the public, including a late 1970s GM Vauxhall raincoat, an inscribed and signed "Cape Cold to Cape Hot" book by Richard Pape documenting the journey of the Austin A90 car in the collection and a mid-20th century powder handwash dispenser from the Longbridge factory site!



1955 Hillman Californian



**Automobilia**

Step inside to explore 1,000s of motoring objects

## Automobilia - Object in Focus

BY CAT BOXALL, CURATOR

To celebrate the reopening of Automobilia, our accessible store showcasing thousands of motoring objects, we are highlighting our Curator's pick of some of the items you can find inside the cabinets over the next few issues of the Newsletter.

A fascinating decorative metal vase has been brought to the front of one of the trophy cabinets and is a head-turner. It was made to commemorate the launch in Madras of the Standard 2000, which was actually a rebadged Rover SD1 produced by Standard Motor Products of India under licence from Austin Rover.

The vase's dramatic top is reminiscent of a lotus, the national flower of India. The large central seed pod acts as a stopper at the top of the vase, with decorative leaf blades surrounding it and fixed along the inside of the neck. The outside of the vase has been engraved and pressed with motifs from the Hindu religion, including images of various deities including Vishnu (four arms), Krishna (holding a flute), Rama (with a bow and arrow) and Hayagriva (horse head), presumably to honour the largest religious grouping in India.

Despite the deal with Austin Rover going ahead and the hope that the Standard 2000 would do well in the executive car market, due to its high price, sales never got far off the ground and the car was only produced for three years.



Standard 2000 trophy







## Festival of the Unexceptional

BY AMY FORSTER-SMITH, ASSISTANT CURATOR

In late July, the Museum attended the Festival of the Unexceptional for the first time. On display in the Hagerty arena was our last of line 1994 Austin Montego 2.0DLX which received lots of admirers! We met many people who had worked at Cowley at the time of the Montego's production and even some who had signed the car after it had rolled off the production line.

One of the highlights of the day was one of our long-standing volunteers, Colin Corke, winning the Chairman's Choice Award for his 1981 Austin Mini Metro. Colin has been displaying cars at the Festival's Concours de L'Ordinaire for eight years and finally came away with one of the top prizes!

Keep your eyes peeled for our return to the Festival of the Unexceptional next year...



# Adopt a piece of history

## Which car will you choose?

**Adopt  
me**



[Click here to learn more](#)

## Meet the team...



Hello, I'm Julia, the new Conference Operations Manager. I arrived here in May, following eight years of working in events at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

While there's nothing quite like having a towering statue of Athena scrutinise your every move, last summer I was given an unmissable opportunity to go on a secondment to run weddings at Kew Gardens. This was as exciting as you may expect, but, before you ask, yes, I do have plenty of stories of monstrous mothers of brides and gruesome grooms! Fast forward a few months, and the uniqueness of the job at the British Motor Museum held great appeal; it allowed me to continue working in a museum of national significance, but in a venue that also boasts huge, purpose-built event spaces - a rarity in the heritage sector.

Today I oversee all of our conference and events delivery here, as well as front of house operations in the café. The variety of this job is enormous, as any day we can have a combination of conferences, dinners, meetings, shows or weddings in the building, and with a capacity of over 1,000 upstairs there's plenty to keep us busy! It's a privilege to have joined such a well-established team and work together using our different experiences to make sure we exceed clients'

expectations every time. All the exciting projects in the pipeline afford us a great opportunity to continue driving up the scope of our offering and standard of delivery.

Outside of work I spend much of my time riding horses and have competed to a high level in eventing. I also love to travel, and enjoy seeking out the gastronomic and cultural gems in the places I visit. On a rare Sunday afternoon off, I can be found watching Formula 1 with a nice glass of wine and attempting to explain the concept of "reasonable sofa space" to my Romanian rescue dog, Mona.

## Volunteer News

We have a new Volunteer's blog post - "Behind The Wheel" - kindly written by Volunteer Roger Gollicker.

We have nearly 100 wonderful people who volunteer with us and Roger is here to tell us a little bit more about just three of our talented and dedicated team.

If you are interested to learn about the team click [here](#).



# Leaving a Legacy

BY THE FUNDRAISING TEAM

## Helping Us Preserve Motoring Heritage for Future Generations

We are privileged to care for one of the world's most significant collections of British cars and motoring memorabilia. As Members, many of you know, our mission is not only to preserve and celebrate the history of the British motor industry but also to inspire future generations through our exhibits, events, and educational programmes. As a charity, we rely on the generous support of our Members and visitors to maintain and develop the Museum.

We are incredibly grateful to you all for choosing to support the work of the Museum through your membership.

This is a gentle reminder that there are a number of ways to support us, one of which is by choosing to leave a gift to the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust in your will.

Some of our supporters have already chosen to leave this lasting legacy and it is hugely appreciated.



We know that leaving a legacy gift is a deeply personal decision, and we understand that your loved ones come first. However, if it feels right for you, even a small contribution can make a tremendous difference. Your legacy could help us to continue honouring the remarkable cars produced by the British motor industry and the talented individuals behind them, support our work in maintaining our collections, fund new exhibitions, and enhance educational initiatives that inspire a love for motoring history in future generations.

If you are considering leaving a legacy gift to us, we would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have, with absolutely no obligation.

Legacy gifts, no matter the size, allow us to plan for the future with confidence, ensuring that the vehicles and stories that have shaped our lives can continue to be enjoyed by all.

If you would like more information please contact us in confidence or click the link below.

If have already chosen to leave us a gift in your Will, we would love the opportunity to thank you, so please do get in touch.

Contact us by emailing [cat.stuart-yapp@britishmotormuseum.co.uk](mailto:cat.stuart-yapp@britishmotormuseum.co.uk) or by calling Cat on 01926 895 224.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## Making the most of your Membership

### Christmas at the British Motor Museum

On behalf of everyone at the British Motor Museum, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your ongoing support and dedication to the preservation of Britain's motoring heritage.

You are part of a special community that cherishes Britain's automotive past, and we are proud to offer a range of exclusive benefits that we hope you continue to enjoy.

As always, this Christmas you have the opportunity to join us for a Festive Lunch at a special Members discount.

You and your family and friends can enjoy a two or three course delicious meal served in the stunning surroundings of our impressive Sky Suite. Also included is a glass of wine or soft drink, some Christmas crackers, plus free entry to the Museum for all our diners on the day.



A fantastic way to see in the festive period. Festive Lunches must be booked in advance so for more information and to book your table click [here](#).

**Don't let your Membership expire - renew yours today!**

2024 will soon be coming to an end! We hope that you'll continue to support the British Motor Museum next year by renewing your membership. If you pay by direct debit, your Membership will renew automatically. If not, you can renew by logging into the Museum Membership Portal. [Tap here](#) to login.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact us.

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[www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/membership](http://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/membership)