

British Automobile



November 2024

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

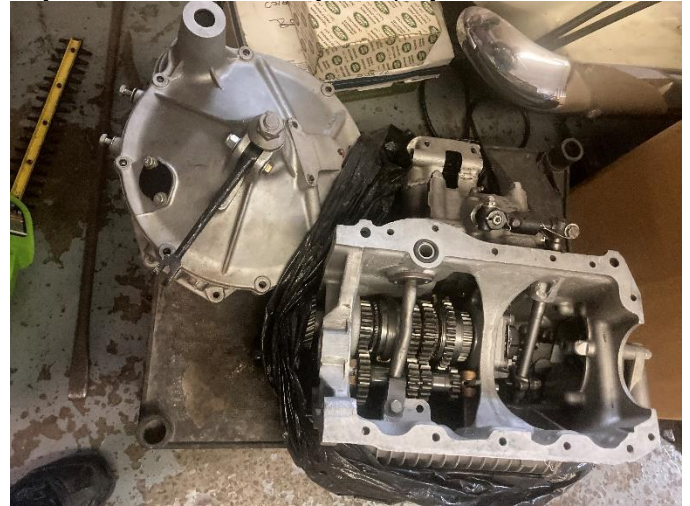
UPCOMING EVENTS –

Deluge of Parts at BTM by Pete Stroble

It has happened again, in one month's time, we have been blessed by four different donors who have brought British car parts to our door. Not wanting to see them go homeless, we've brought them in. Our hope is to be able to use them to maintain the BTM collection or to find new homes for them with other enthusiasts. Preservation is half of our mission and getting ever rarer parts into the hands of restorers certainly helps us accomplish that.



There were several jewels in the donated parts but the biggest would be the Lo-Cost kit donated by Harold Davis of Indiana. The Lo-Cost was a homebuilt take off on the Lotus 7. This project has the frame, nose, "clam shell" fenders, steering rack, A arms, 2 transmissions, diff for an independent rear end setup, coil over shocks, plus much more. You can go with the engine of your choice. We were wondering if BTM put a BMC A series motor in it, like some of the early Lotus 7's, if we could legitimately display it as a British vehicle. A Lo-Cost was always on my personal wish list but I'm aging out of any major undertakings. In the end, we will probably sell this project to help fund other restorations. Anyone interested in a very neat project?



Another jewel from the Ted Bernstein Estate is a Mini Cooper S gearbox with straight cut gears and a 3.9 Limited Slip Diff. The gear set is new and the build is super clean with many bits safety wired for reliability. It has the matching idler gear housing and clutch cover. It came from an estate of a former Mini racer so this was probably a back-up spare. Also in the tubs is a set of 7.5" disc brakes and a rebuilt brake booster. To go with the racer theme, he had two sets of unused Mini flares, one 2" set and one 5" set. Four very nice 10X 4.5 Cooper S steel wheels were in the pile as well as S pistons (Jahns flat top) and two sets of rods.

Of real interest to the Museum are the 17 different sizes of inner tubes, from 15" to 33". These will come in handy with the variety of leaky tires we contend with. Ten shop manuals for a variety of marques will end up in our Library.



Tim Shaw of Michigan donated a pallet full of MG Midget parts, some new and some used. Tim's Midget won "Best of Show" at this year's Texas MG Meet. We inherit the parts that were not up to the high bar that Tim has set for his Midget. Lucky us! On the pallet were 6 different Lucas lens assemblies, a perfect rear bumper, new ignition coil and water pump, new wheel trim rings, plus many more.



Jim Miller is moving out of state so this is a good time to weed out parts that he no longer needs. A brand new MGB driver's side floor pan and door sill are parts that might end up being in one of our MGB projects. Four very nice Rostyle wheels will save us from having to restore a set that we have. A Lucas 45DE4 distributor, CIBIE lights, chrome air cleaners, chrome trim pieces round out the package. Thanks Jim!

Support from the British car community is what keeps BTM afloat. It is with a deep appreciation of all the physical effort that goes into getting these valuable parts to us that we extend a "Thank You" to current and past donors.

BTM 8th Annual Chili Cook-off Fun Event



It was a great day for Chili and 113 enthusiasts came out to enjoy some great recipes and each other's company while supporting the Museum. 11 pots of chili were entered; salad, bread, and a table of deserts plus Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream complimented the meal. The chili ran the gamut of traditional meat to vegan for all culinary tastes.

Serving Chili



Trophies plus two gift baskets were the much sought after prizes. The baskets include gift cards from Archers Restaurant and the Pub at the Greene. Fall themed items and unusual kitchenware filled out the baskets.

The Chili Cook-off winners were:
People's Choice went to Debby Standefer for her "It's Spice to Meat You" chili. This was Debby's third win in eight years, each time with a different recipe.

The **Judge's Choice** became a second People's Choice award as our Judge was a no show. There was only a difference of one vote between the two chilies so they were obvious crowd favorites. Sean Hogan was the second winner with his "Bourbon BBQ" Chili. I wonder how much bourbon got consumed experimenting with that recipe.

A surprise **appreciation award** went to Amanda Hawker for her eight years of organizing the Chili Cool-off. She puts a lot of effort into making sure everyone has a fun time. She is super organized as you would expect a school teacher to be. Herding us car guys around must tax even her patience. Eight years of fundraising for BTM helps pay for the many repairs and improvements that are needed. Thanks, Amanda.

Hungry Chili enthusiasts



Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream



Losers of the event would have to be the pizza chili. Chili scooped on to a cheese pizza was not a good

idea. The cardboard flavor of the pizza overwhelmed the natural goodness of the chili. Maybe I'll go back to refining my Spam Chili for next year.

The event made \$1200 and many new friends. One attendee who I talked with was not a "car guy" but loved chili. He had many favorites so hats off to our many cooks.

Mini & MGB at Chili Cook-off



Comments about chili on the Internet -

Chili - a hearty stew that is also used as a topping condiment on other dishes and has varied recipes and ingredients, with or without meat, ultimately derived from the Mexican-style chili con carne. In writings from 1529, the Franciscan friar Bernardino de Sahagún described chili pepper-seasoned stews being consumed in the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, now the location of Mexico City. The use of beef as the primary meat originated when the Spanish introduced cattle to Mexico.

BTM TARDIS at Dr. Who Festival

After making friends with the folks at Who North America on a previous trip to Indiana, we decided to do some Museum outreach at their "Doctober Fest". Sean Hogan loaded up our TARDIS and Jimmy Dean loaded our 1972 Reliant Regal for the 135 mile trip. The

connection between the two vehicles is their quirkiness and very similar dark blue color.

We were given a very prominent spot on the Festival grounds at the entrance to the 8 acre facility. Just across from us at the entrance was a very large inflatable TARDIS. It was like the two TARDIS were standing guard. Our location meant that everyone had to walk by us to get to the store and the food vendor.

Visitors were constantly taking selfies of themselves in the TARDIS. Several Dr. Who fans were dressed like their favorite character from the show and would pose with the TARDIS.

Many of the "Whovians" also liked the Reliant. Most had never seen a three wheeled car. The fact that it came from the home country of their favorite show had to further broaden their cultural horizons.

The Festival had two large tents full of Dr. Who crafts and products. If it was Dr. Who related, it had to be there. The vendors and visitors were all very friendly and outgoing which made for a very pleasant day. Now to see if we get any visitors to BTM from our outreach. Our new friends all seemed to be the hardcore type that might want to make the trip and visit our TARDIS again.

Our thanks to Jany, Keith, and family for pulling the Whovians together for such a fun event.

TARDIS and Dr. Who actor



Two TARDIS & the BTM Reliant



TARDIS Selfies

