British Motor Museum celebrates 30th Anniversary

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30 Years of the amazing British Motor Museum…

They tell us:

The British Motor Museum first opened its doors to the public at its site in Gaydon 30 years ago! Visitors got their first look at the world's largest collections of historic British cars

inside the impressive brand-new building on 1 May 1993. The Museum will be marking its milestone anniversary with a week-long 30th Anniversary Celebration from 14-20 August.

The origins of the Museum's collections date back to 1975 when Leyland Historic Vehicles was founded to look after vehicles which had been kept for historic or publicity purposes by several individual companies that made up British Leyland Motor Corporation. By 1983, the archive and vehicle collections had grown to the point where it was decided to establish an independent charitable trust to safeguard them, and the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust (BMIHT) was born. The collections rapidly outgrew the Museum at Syon Park, London and the headquarters at Studley Castle. With the help of an £8m investment from Rover Group, a new home was found in Gaydon, Warwickshire – bringing a brand-new visitor attraction to the area.

The building was designed not only to house the cars and extensive motoring archive but also to offer educational and purpose-built conference facilities to ensure its long-term sustainability. The purpose was, and still is, to collect, conserve and share the story of Britain's motor industry from its inception to the current day, for today's generation and into the future.

Thirty years on, the British Motor Museum has gone from strength to strength. The collections have Designated Status, recognising their national and international significance. The number of cars on display exceeds 400, with vehicles from the Jaguar Heritage and Vauxhall Heritage collections adding to those belonging to the Trust. The Mezzanine floor, opened by HRH Princess Anne, was added in 2007, followed just 8 years later by a whole new building – the Collections Centre – where the reserve collection is now accessible to the public.

The Museum also has a number of aspirational plans for development over the next few years, from the addition of a hotel to a glass 'wrap' around the front of the building and from an EV super hub to an apprentice academy.

Jeff Coope, Managing Director at the British Motor Museum said: “The history of Britain’s motoring industry is the heart and soul of the Museum, and our vision is ultimately to become the global focal point of all Britain’s automotive history and culture. The next 30 years are sure to bring as much, if not more, change than the last 30, and we are excited to be along for the ride.”

To find out more information about the Museum please call 01926 895300 or visit the website at https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk.

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