



## ATWELL-WILSON MOTOR MUSEUM

### Did you have one of these?

An often heard comment from visitors to the Atwell-Martin Motor Museum in Calne is "I remember having one of those" when pointing to one of the many cars or motorcycles on display. The vehicles represent the development of the motor industry from 1924 – 1994. Many visitors to this friendly, family run museum can personally identify with cars from the collection, which is not surprising as the museum is considered to have one of the best historical collections in the UK. The exhibits vary widely and also include fire appliances – one even dating back to the 1840s – and associated motoring memorabilia.

Each exhibit has information panels explaining the technical specification of the vehicle in question, along with any special history and provenance. Unusual for a British motor museum, there is also a strong representation of American vehicles from the 1930s to the 1970s.

The collection started life with a 1937 Buick Albermarle – the personal property of Richard Atwell. This was a very advanced vehicle for its time and it remains on show at the museum. The collection grew steadily and a Wedding Hire fleet was established in 1972.

The museum came into being in 1989

with the construction of what is now the Main Hall. It was known locally, as the Downside Motor Museum. In June 1996, a Charitable Trust was formed to run the museum. This was followed by the formation of an enthusiastic support group known as "The Friends" – to which new members are always welcome.

Since 1990, the collection has included vehicles on loan from people in the local area. This allows exhibits to be changed regularly. The displays vary from a number of everyday classics to historic cars and lorries. Amongst these are a 1934 Alvis Speed 20, a 1934 3-litre Bentley and a 1953 Allard Palm Beach with the rarely seen Dodge Ram Ram engine. Richard Atwell has always had an interest in American cars, so there is quite an array of Ford, GM and Chrysler products from "across The Pond".

Also on display is an interesting selection of rare motorcycles, including legendary names like Brough, BSA, HRD, Matchless, Norton, Sunbeam, and Indian, to name but a few.

You can find out more about the museum on the website at [www.atwellwilson.org.uk](http://www.atwellwilson.org.uk) Why not pay a visit and bring back those memories of

cars you have owned in the past?. You'll find the museum in Stockley Lane, Calne, and it is open every day, except Friday, from 11am - 5pm.

*Article supplied by Don Westcott, Trustee*