

New 'County Classics' motor museum opened in Taunton town centre by TV celebrity



Former Top Gear presenter Richard Hammond officially opened the new County Classics Motor Museum in Taunton, Somerset in November 2023 following several years of organisation and preparation.

Local businessman Patrick Hawkins, a lifelong classic car enthusiast, had purchased the historic County Stores in the town when it closed in 2019 and has spent the last few years transforming it into a wonderful home for classic vehicles from the 1960s to the 1990s all with detailed descriptions and history.

The building has been completely restored and fitted with disabled-access and vehicle lifts. During Covid lockdowns its specialist team created a superb space keeping the historic building features but enhancing them with quality joinery, fittings, and related memorabilia. Dedicated volunteers complement the visitor experience relating stories of the vehicles in their original time.

The opening ceremony was attended by various civic dignitaries and local classic vehicle owners who paraded their stunning cars outside the premises. The museum houses around 100 cars and over 80 motorbikes, some on loan from local enthusiasts, along with a small aeroplane from Patrick's personal collection. Other facilities on-site include a café and small shop selling related memorabilia.



Image County Classics - www.countyclassicsmotormuseum.co.uk