

CITRON 0798 - AND THE OTHER 1973  
EARL'S COURT MOTOR SHOW CARS



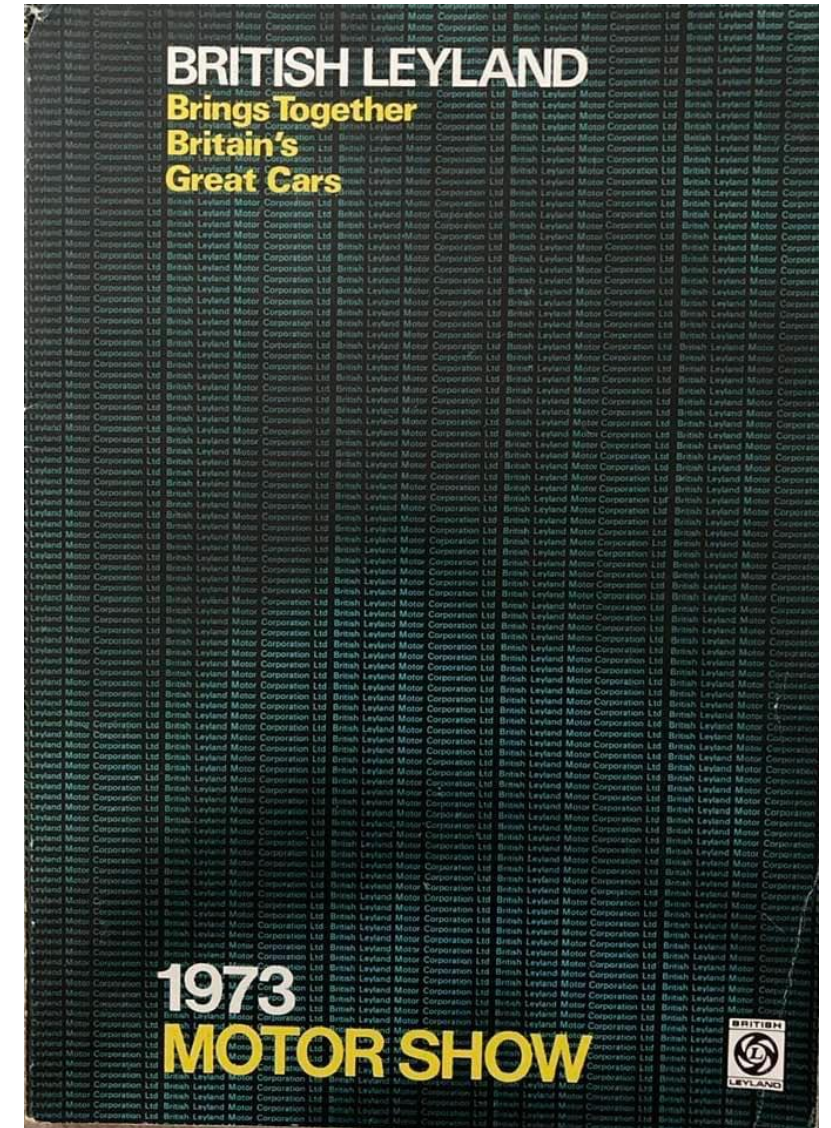
John Davies



# TOPICS

- Production
- The Motor Show appearance
- Noteworthy features
- Disposal, sale and ownership history
- The car today
- Show plate
- Wheels!
- The other show cars – Aconite 0799 and White 0800

Thanks to the late Geoff Allen, Victor Smith, David Knowles, Stephen Brown, and Paul Gill



# 0798 - PRODUCTION



- Factory production records copied by Geoff Allen
- 0798 built in September 1973 ('Commission')
  - EC-Show 23 designation
  - Show finish, less headlining
- Displayed at Motor Show 17-27 October 1973
- Returned to factory for removal of show components (02 November 1973)
- Despatched from factory November 1973 to BLMC Publicity Longbridge
- Not 'advised for delivery' (to PJ Evans) until 15 March 1974

Copy of the entry for Citron 798 in the copy of the MG Factory Production Records made by Geoff Allen

## Citron 798

It's recorded as an "Earls Court Show car" prepared to "Show finish less headlining". Quite why the headlining was removed or not fitted during its production I don't know unless some reflective material was used on the inside of the roof to reflect light inside the car to generate more drama for the car up on the ramp.

Car Prefix	Chass No	Engine No	Body Exterior Paint Colour	Interior Trim Colour	Date of Commission	Date Mounted on Assembly Line	Date Through Paint Finishing	Date Advised for Delivery	Date of Despatch from Factory
GD2D1 798	G	4860 0636 A	Citron	Black	20-Sep-73	21-Oct-73	02-Nov-73	15-Mar-74	02-Nov-73

Door Lock Key No	St Col Lock Key No	Model Year	Program Schedule	Car No in Schedule	Works Classification	Main Agent Advised for Despatch.	Comments	Chas s No.
876		1974	24	16	32	BLMC Austin/Morris Publicity. LONGBRIDGE. Warwickshire.	Earls Court Show car No 23 Show finish less headlining	798
876		1974	24	16	32	P. J. Evans Ltd. Manaco House. Bristol Street. BIRMINGHAM. Warwickshire	Sold on to Evans	798

Whilst the key dates in September 1973 through to November 1973 make sense as work will have been carried out on the car to complete the production of the car following its return from the Motor Show at Earls Court, the "Date Advised for Delivery" on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1974 three and a half months after the recorded "Date of Despatch from Factory" of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1973 is a puzzle. My feeling is the car was possibly sent to BLMC at Longbridge as it been recorded as despatched to their Publicity department and it may then have been on display there until a decision was made to sell and deliver it to PJ Evans Ltd in Birmingham on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1974.



# 0798 – MOTOR SHOW APPEARANCE



## MGs displayed by British Leyland at Earl's Court in 1973:

Plinth mounted – MGB GT V8 – Citron/Black trim.

MIDGET – Blaze/Black trim. Door mirrors, hazard warning lights, tonneau cover, anti-roll bar.

MGB – Glacier White/Autumn Leaf trim. Overdrive, wire wheels, door mirrors, hazard warning lights, brake servo.

MGB GT – Teal Blue/Autumn Leaf trim. Overdrive, tinted glass, head restraints, door mirrors, hazard warning lights, brake servo.

MGB GT V8 – Aconite/Autumn Leaf trim.

# 0798 – NOTEWORTHY FEATURES



- Show Car plate on bonnet slam panel
- Seen on Aconite 0799 and other MG show cars also known to have this



- Door latch assemblies and striker plates all chrome plated
- Nearside latch survives; offside has been replaced



# 0798 – DISPOSAL AND OWNERSHIP HISTORY



1. **PJ Evans (Dealer):**  
15/03/74 – 13/08/74
2. **Wideacre Fencing Contractors, Great Barr:**  
13/08/74 – 09/75 (first registration)
3. **Unknown:**  
09/75 – 16/11/78
4. **David Lamb, Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield:**  
16/11/78 – 16/6/87
5. **Thomas Julian Gerard, Swannington:**  
16/6/87 - ?
6. **Unknown:**  
? – 21/10/94
7. **Robert MacGillivray, Carluke:**  
21/10/94 – 20/03/20
8. **John Davies, York:**  
20/03/20 - date



# 0798 – THE CAR TODAY



- Home from Scotland to York in March 2020. Since then;
- Full service
- Clutch, engine mounts, propshaft, new 175/80 x 14 tyres
- New, genuine Pilkington Sundym windscreen
- Non standard badges and decals removal
- V8 and BL badges located correctly
- Period number plates + dealer sticker
- ...*'as near to August 1974 condition as possible'*
- Next: body and engine bay overhaul



# 0798 – SHOWPLATE





# 0798 - WHEELS (1)



Christmas 2022...

1. Wheels cleaned
2. Centres polished
3. Aluminium and chrome rims masked up
4. Undercoated
5. Sprayed black
6. Lacquered... and masking removed

...but they're not V8 wheels (or Scimitar ones).  
1980s replicas?



# 0798 – WHEELS (2)



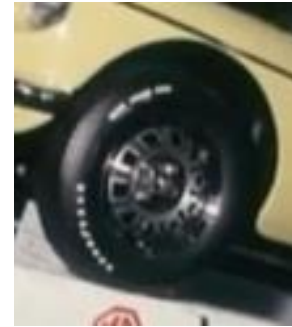
Original, sharp and  
unrestored centre castings



50 year old tyres were cracked and perished. They were replaced with 175/80 Continental EcoContact 3



The wheels are now on the car and will be conserved in unrestored condition



June 2023...

...A set of 'Scimitar wheels' appeared on eBay

- Genuine V8 wheels in never-restored condition
- Matching set of (OE spec) Goodyear G800 tyres fitted dated 9/73
- Two had painted sidewall lettering as per the Motor Show cars...

...so where have they been for ~50 years? What story could they tell?!



# THE OTHER SHOW CARS – ACONITE 0799



- Commission 01/10/73
  - EC-SHOW 27
  - Paint Finishing 09/11/73 (one week after 0798)
  - Advised for delivery 07/12/1973
- Registered by Appleyards, Glasgow as SGD575N on 22 August 1974
- Exported to Australia in mid 1980s by Richard Johnson
- Restoration undertaken by Stuart Ratcliff and Michael Stillone on behalf of Leonie Johnson
- High quality rebuild - enabled by accumulation of many NOS components no longer available



- Commission 20/09/73 (same date as 0798)
  - EC-SHOW 43
- Displayed by Hoffman Balancing Techniques - not on BL stand with 0798 and 0799
  - Hoffman listed in brochure as suppliers of wheel balancing and brake testing equipment, based Worksop
  - Police spec speedometer, roof sign
  - V8 Register records *'an award for bodywork for cars in its price range'*
- Paint Finishing 16/11/73 (one week after 0799)
- Advised for delivery 16/11/73
- Geoff Allen's records state
  - 'Transferred to Police Longbridge Publicity Sold on after Show'
  - NOT one of the three cars tested by Thames Valley Police
- Registered NOX 8M on 09/11/73; latterly recorded by DVLA as painted blue
- Whereabouts unknown; not taxed since 1997
- No pictures known to exist