

Story by **Brian R. Sheridan**  
Photos **Contributed**

**T**he SOBs are still out driving on local roadways from Peek'n Peak Resort near Findley Lake, New York, to Presque Isle State Park in Millcreek Township.

We are not referring to inconsiderate drivers who cause traffic problems but to the Scions of Britain, a car club based in Waterford, in which members tool about in their English vehicles. Since last being profiled in Lake Erie Lifestyle five years ago, the Scions now boasts more than 200 members – about 70 more than it had in 2015 – and it now has its own website and Facebook page.

COVID-19 has postponed the club's monthly meetings but nothing keeps members from cruising around in their jaunty and exotic motorcars.

"We have members with cars from Bentleys to MG Midgets," said Dana Perry, club president. "We have cars from the 1930s all the way up to a 2016 Mini Cooper. We have old cars, new cars and everything in between."

The cars are head-turners when zipping by on the open road. While known for being "temperamental" transportation, no one can deny the British-made cars demonstrate grace and beauty in their design and creation.

"They are unique," Perry said. "Most European cars all have their look. You look at German cars, they have their own type of culture. Italian cars have their own culture, and the French cars definitely have their own culture. The British ones have their own as well. They did a lot with little. They took what they had and created these special cars."

The stylish look gives collectors like Tim Lewis, a club member and president of Matrix Tool, many reasons to overlook the mechanical shortcomings of British-made cars. Lewis' love for them began before he could drive. At age 15, he bought a 1959 Turner 950S that needed extensive restoration.

"I had \$400 in the bank and the desire to restore an old British sports car," Lewis said. "I learned a lot from that car, including how much money and patience it takes to restore an old classic – even a simple one. I sold the car when I decided to attend graduate school as I needed the money, but I have regretted the decision ever since. While I never lost my passion for the cars, I put it on hold for a bit after getting married and raising four boys.

## CLUB'S CARS ARE *head-turners*

This 1952 MG-TD is owned by Scions of Britain Club member and secretary Mary Jane Blair.







**ABOVE:** This 1953 Allard J2X Sport Racer is owned by Scions of Britain Club member Tim Lewis.

**RIGHT:** This 1961 Daimler SP250 is owned by Scions of Britain Club member Tim Lewis.



### Scions of Britain

For more info, visit  
[www.soberie.com](http://www.soberie.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/British-Car-Motoring-Group-Erie-PA-101552417988850/>

However, as my kids finished high school and entered college, I realized that I needed a hobby to fill some of my free time. The hobby began as a mid-life crisis bucket list item – buy a British Roadster and drive the rubber off it. Little did I know that the hobby would turn into an addiction!”

Perry said most members own their cars to drive them. They may be stored during Erie’s tough winters but once spring arrives, these cars are back on the roads being enjoyed by their owners. Perry said that’s the point of SOB – creating camaraderie through the use of these cars and not allowing them to become “garage art.”

“We believe that’s what the cars are for – they should be driven,” Perry explained.

Lewis described driving a British sports car as an exhilarating experience.

“The character, lines and personality of the cars make them extremely appealing from a cosmetic perspective – in my opinion, the cars are as much ‘art on wheels’ as they are basic transportation. In addition, the cars are very simple, no-frills, mechanical machines. Due to their minimalist nature, the driver literally becomes part of the driving experience – an extension of the car if you will,” he said.

Many of the classic cars within the club lack certain amenities that cars today offer drivers. Instead of it being seen as a negative, Lewis said it creates a “very active driving experience.”

“Due to their minimalist nature, the driver literally becomes an extension of the car,” he said. “The cars can lack any computer technology and advanced options



**LEFT:** Scions of Britain Club member Tim Lewis poses with his 1961 Daimler SP250.

**RIGHT:** This 1958 Austin Healey Sprite is owned by Scions of Britain Club member Ron Andzelik.

**BELOW:** Scions of Britain Club members share their vehicles at a past Hornby School Museum Car Show.





that add 'creature comforts.' They rely on the driver's focus and attention for essential activities like clutching, shifting, engine monitoring and, when the car wants to be less than cooperative, mechanical troubleshooting. The combination of sitting low to the road, focusing on the car's performance while wind hits you from all directions makes for an unforgettable driving experience."

Perry added that his newer Jaguar also required his focus and attention even with onboard computer technology. "It had a GPS that spoke British and sometimes I had to stop and think about what it was saying since their terms (like English measurements) are different than ours. The cars are just a little bit different."

These cars can be seen at most car shows and cruise-ins around town during the spring and summer months when events aren't canceled due to COVID-19.

The highpoint for the SOB club is its own show when the cars come together. Usually held in Waterford, this year's show has been moved to the Lake Erie Community Park in Lake City on Sept. 20. Free to the public, there is a \$2 fee for registering a car for the show. In return, registrants receive a \$2 food voucher. One doesn't need to be an SOB member to participate – just have a British car. At the show, all types of United Kingdom cars are displayed for examination and enjoyment.

"Most people would assume," Perry said, "it is primarily sports cars. There is a fair amount of people with Jaguar sedans, Mini Coopers. There is a broad range of cars – and even British motorcycles – that our members own and show. They are all 'drivers,' meaning we don't have them brought in on trailers. We enjoy our vehicles."

If you also enjoy them, Perry invites anyone to join the SOBs, regardless of if you own a UK car. The club was founded more than 30 years ago on the enthusiasm for, and love of, these British cars – not necessarily ownership.

"The group is very social – we aren't just a bunch of motorheads or gear-guys. Spouses are also involved and participate. We enjoy each other's company. The benefit is you not only get to learn about different types of vehicles but have fun as well," he said. **LEL**



This 1979 Panther Lima is owned by Scions of Britain Club members Marvin and Sandy Lockwood.



This 1979 Panther Lima is owned by Scions of Britain Club members Marvin and Sandy Lockwood.

## AUTOMOTIVE

**BATES COLLISION**  
"We Meet the Nicest People by Accident."  
5100 Buffalo Road  
Erie, PA 16510  
ph. 814.899.7766 | fx. 814.898.4449  
[www.bates-collision.com](http://www.bates-collision.com)

## HEATING &amp; COOLING

**David J. Winston Co.**  
Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning  
*The fourth generation proudly serving our community.*



**STAY COMFORTABLE**

Call us today to schedule a check-up!

**(814) 835-6660**

## COMPUTER SERVICES

Insured Free Estimates Credit Cards PA09576 814-450-2740  
**Freeman STUMP REMOVAL**  
**450-2740**  
Sam Freeman Owner Bark Topsoil Wood Chips

## MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

**CONQUERING EVERY CREEPING THING**  
2 locations to serve you.  
**EAST 899-8278**  
**WEST 838-9448 • 464-6777**  
**BIGFOOT!**  
PEST CONTROL  
Call Clay Bannister - P.C.O. licensed in PA

**SMALL ENGINE REPAIR**  
**STARVAGGI'S SERVICE CENTER**  
ATV, Cycles, Mowers, OPE, Blowers, Cyl Boring, Head Work, Motorcycle Pa Inspections  
**Call 814-440-1435**

## SHOPPING

**Mel & Tee's Secondhand Store and Estate Sales**  
**SUPPORT LOCAL!**  
Monday-Saturday 10-5pm  
*Still time to book your 2020 sales!*  
4915 Hillsdale Ave.  
814-881-7724 or 881-4341

TO ADVERTISE, PLEASE CALL  
GRETCHEN AT 870-1638

## TRASH/HAULING

**RENT A DUMPSTER FOR CLEAN-UPS**

**ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS**

**FINNEY & SON DISPOSAL**

PA# 104210

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**SAME DAY DELIVERY**  
**BIG & SMALL JOBS**  
**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**  
**RELIABLE & AFFORDABLE**  
**FULLY INSURED**  
**FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED**  
**10, 13, 15, 20, 30, 40 YARD SIZES**

**814-923-1360**  
[www.finnayandsondisposal.com](http://www.finnayandsondisposal.com)

## LANDSCAPING

Commercial - Industrial - Residential

**PRO Waste Services Inc.**  
813 E. 18th St. Erie, Pa • (814) 455-5119

**Supplying Roll-Off, Rearload, Frontload Containers For Your Waste and Recycling Needs**

**813 E. 18th St.**  
**Erie, PA**  
**(814) 455-5119**  
[www.ProWasteServicesInc.com](http://www.ProWasteServicesInc.com)

