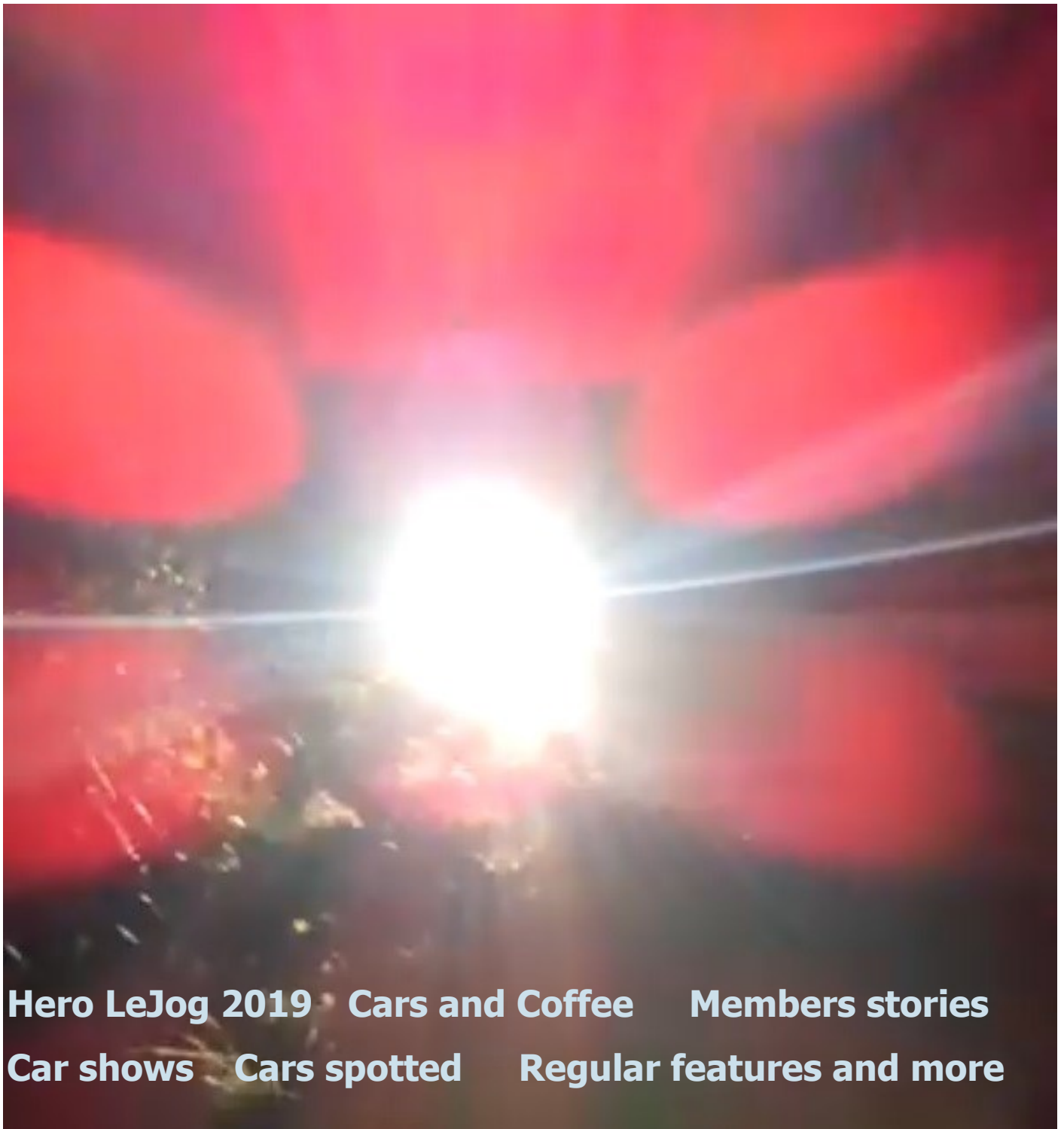


CLASSIC SCENE



40th Anniversary

January 2020



Hero LeJog 2019 Cars and Coffee Members stories
Car shows Cars spotted Regular features and more

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Cover Picture

A bit of an abstract one this month
so many of you may be reading this
cover picture section for the first
time. No it's not a 1967 psychedelic
dream, it's camera lens flare caused
by one of the entrants on this years
Hero Events Lands End to John
O'Groats.

Welcome to the January Newsletter

Happy Christmas/holidays/festivities (delete as applicable— even the happy if you must) from the editors chair. I hope you find time to fettle your cars or drive that Ferrari (other marques are available) that Santa brought.

It's a surprisingly packed issue for December and that is down to the number of people that have sent items in and for that we are all very grateful. The newsletter is much better when it represents the membership. Anyone who says it is better when someone else writes it can sit at the back at January's Auction Night, along with the other hecklers or worse, elected new editor at the AGM.

I have now posted out all the Ruby Newsletters so all current members should have one. Demand was high amongst former members so we have none left. Not one. I nearly didn't get one myself. So if you're a current member, haven't got a copy and feel let down, please drop me a line and I'll worry every night about how I'll resolve that. I suppose it's a nice problem to have; a popular newsletter.

In the editors garage this month progress has been slow but the Sierra XR4x4 is up on axle stands getting a new handbrake cable fitted. While it's disconnected I have been attending to the little bits of corrosion under the rear and to surface rust on the suspension arms. These are big beefy things but the surface rust actually came up as an MOT advisory. The car seemed a little bit damp when it was sat outside so I cleaned out the sunroof drain tubes which is a known cause of water ingress. A friend was scrapping a 205 XT and I got some useful bits off that for my GTi. I felt a bit bad as he loved that car. He also has a lovely MG TD in the garage but I wasn't allowed any parts off that.

A thought sprang to mind when I was taking off the old Sierra handbrake cable. In a nostalgic flashback, I suddenly remembered how it connected up and adjusted. (This is my 6th Sierra.) Perhaps we're as nostalgic about working on our classics as we are about driving them and admiring their looks? For example, Mini engines remind me of hanging out with pals in my parents garage when I was young.

I missed the Christmas Club night this year as I finished work at 8:30 pm after four long shifts in a row so I was very tired and, I had actual man flu. From what I heard it was a good night. And there are a couple of reviews in these pages.

Your Editor

Chairs Bitty

We had a lovely evening bowling. A bit of a social event, whilst discussing the finer points of how to throw a bowling ball. One member even took in his own bowling ball and later admitted to doing competitions in a previous life. What dedication, but he did not get the high score. Missed it by 2 points.

Zak demonstrating that even balls going in apparent slow motion can regularly knock down 9 pins.

My throwing was rubbish with quite a few of the balls going in the gutter, or throwing splits. Grrr. The evening was easily stolen by Roy MacGregor, with almost a clean sweep across the board when it comes to game statistics.



- Highest game score: Roy – 132
- Highest overall score: Roy – 261
- Most number of strikes: Jim
- Most number of spares: Roy
- Biggest improvement between game 1 and game 2: Callum
- The most consistent scorer: Tom

The evening also raised a tidy sum for Cash for Kids. Add to that the shopping trolleys worth of goodies collected during Cars & Coffee, the club mainly through Miles has put in a lot of effort supporting this local cause.

For our fleet of cars, it was a pretty uneventful month. The Merc went to the dealers for a service and came back with an air freshener inside. Bleh. This went straight into the bin as neither of us like those smelly things. Yesterday a light fault code appeared on the dashboard. I had a quick look round the car, but all lights were fine. This had us briefly baffled until Alice realised it must have something to do with the tow-bar electrics. A quick spray with a well known fishy oil based water dispersant and all is well again.

The Skoda went in for its MOT and sailed straight through. Good news of course, but makes for boring reading. Just a tiny advisory of some rust on nearside sill which our garage will sort out sometime in the next 2 weeks.

The Smart got snowed on because we haven't got round to parking it up in our garage yet. We need to clear the garage out first, which may reveal more goodies for the auction. No idea what is in the loft these days.

Christmas is coming up as I write this, but will be past by the time you are reading this. That leaves me to wish you all a Happy New Year. And as you know our year starts with our annual auction. We have saved up some nice stuff, including a solar battery charger. You will need to be there if you want it. See you at the Old North Inn on the 9th for 19.30pm.

Trish.

News

I read in the Inverness Courier that motorists across the Highlands have been warned about abandoning cars in public places.

"Firing a warning shot that Highland Council policy is due to be tightened up in 2020 with enforcement a top priority, north councillor, Raymond Bremner said it is set to get much tougher on vehicle owners.

Mr Bremner, deputy leader of the opposition, said: "I just want to warn people that if you currently are using council or residential car parking areas as a personal workshop area or as a storage area for boats on trailers, cars on blocks, or anything else on wheels that looks unsightly or is causing a nuisance, please don't be offended if you receive a letter from the council asking you to remove the vehicle."

If the vehicle is not removed the council will recharge the cost of the action it has to take to move the vehicle back onto the last owner.

A Highland Council spokeswoman said: "The council still receives around 500 complaints a year on abandoned vehicles. Abandoned vehicles are a blight on local communities and it is an offence to abandon any vehicle. The council investigates all complaints and remove vehicles where appropriate.

The council website has been updated to provide further advice to the public on the subject. In addition the council continues to undertake joint operations with Police Scotland and the DVLA to target problem areas."

Now I had a quick search in the council website and I couldn't find anything about it. This news item caught my attention as in the past I have done a lot of work on cars parked in the street and fairly recently I have discovered that this is legally dubious. Secondly what on earth is unsightly about a boat on a trailer especially if you're a boat lover like me. On the other hand I have seen a lot of cars abandoned on the side of the road for weeks or more, so I suppose this policy will help there.

Faraway Classics

Richard Lashley

Early September saw us off in our little campervan to see our youngest in Cheltenham where he has got himself a job nearby. Lo and behold, a Classic Car gathering was advertised for Sunday the 8th at the main station and depot of the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway – an opportunity not to be missed.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, so off we went on the train from Cheltenham Racecourse, through the Cotswolds, to Toddington – a large mainline steam engine (a Merchant Navy Class 4-6-2 from the Southern Railway for those interested) pulling eight full size carriages. In the field adjacent to the beautifully restored station was a large and wide selection of interesting classics ranging from a Hillman Imp van (badged Commer), one of two trialled (but rejected) by the AA as a patrol vehicle to a Thames Trader articulated lorry, absolutely tiny by today's standard. It's always delightful to visit a completely 'new' gathering – every row brought back memories of cars that I have not seen in years and, of course, a lot of more common classics.

The star of the show for me was the Zephyr Zodiac Mk2 convertible in white and red with matching trim or, no, perhaps it was the Humber Super Snipe in two tone green or, there again, perhaps it was the immaculate Porsche 356 convertible in a beautiful dark blue. Or even the cream Standard Vanguard or the pale blue/cream Austin Cambridge (I'm sure some older readers will remember the British School of Motoring Corgi version with a red steering wheel on the roof!)

A lovely hot sunny day, free entry (if you come by train), lunch at the 'Flag and Whistle' station café, steam trains, a short narrow gauge line and classic cars – what's not to like?



Faraway Classics continued...



They hold a spring and an autumn gathering and can be thoroughly recommended for anyone in the area at the time. The Bugatti Owners Club at the Prestcott Hill Climb is also nearby – a visit booked for our next trip!



Talk about a crushing blow...

Following on from last months review of the Classic Car Show at the NEC by Richard Lashley, member Chris Silver was also there and sent in this picture. I have to confess I couldn't quite figure out what is going on but apparently it's an advert for Cherished Insurance who will in-

sure tanks, cars or flying saucers and for a gimmick they drove a tank over this MGF. Don't worry though, even though it looks in good condition, the MG was on it's way to the scrapyard. For a more accurate version of the story, be sure to ask Chris at the next meeting.

Out and About



I saw this immaculate Peugeot 205Gti (It's a 1.9) in, you guessed it, Tescos car park, and if you doubt it's of classic status, it is 30 years old. As modern cars seem to get more and more generic, the style of this car seems to get better and better to my eyes at least. I must get to work on mine. Editor

This early Lotus Excel resides locally and with the glass missing its fate is sealed. Jim Mackay



On a recent trip to Glasgow my work pal Danny was showing me his lovely Mk1 Golf Driver. It was really smart and rare. In many ways it was even more appealing than a GTi. Sadly, the very next day it broke down, then burst into flames on the hard shoulder and is now written off. I am deeply affected by this news. Editor.

Le Jog 25th Anniversary 201

Please enjoy these pictures of some of the cars that were competing in the 25th anniversary of the annual Le Jog rally organized by Hero events. This is an almost non-stop and really hard reliability trial from Lands End to John O'Groats over 4 days. Dad and I go and watch this every year and we normally go to the 2 hour stop point before crews start the last leg up to John O'Groats (normally in either Aviemore or Fort William).



This year the route was slightly different to previous years as it mainly went up the west side of the country and the 2 hour stop was in Kyle of Lochalsh. Luckily for the crews the weather wasn't too extreme but there was still a bit of ice around in higher up places. The wind in Kyle was pretty fierce (hence the blurry pictures!) and very wet too.



There were lots of different cars to see and a good variety too. Pre war Bentleys, a Series 1 Land Rover, Citroen DS, Peugeot 403, various Porsches, VWs and even a standard metro just to name a few.



Most crews were in the hotel catching a quick hours sleep. Interesting to see some repair work being carried out (mainly electrical) and lots of front end damage to many of the cars. All part of rallying of course. The first cars arrived at Kyle for 9pm and were due to start the last leg at 11pm. We followed the first few up towards Plockton where we watched the rest come past on some of the twisty single track around there. We didn't get home till late but as always it was well worth it!

Regards,

Jesse Wigman



VW LT35

Jim MacKay

We have this VW LT35 and when I say "We" I mean the royal "We". Irene is the registered owner with her own insurance. In effect then, I have never been the registered owner of any vehicle that hasn't been British built. Anyone else out there who can make that claim? "No-one else that stupid" I hear you say. I did have a VW Polo for the kids as a field runabout but it wasn't registered. I would never have allowed them an Austin, MG or Triumph!



We bought this van thirteen years ago with 55K on the clock. I has done another 50K and not without endless trouble some of it down to drivers error. I ran into the back of a car last summer and pushed the radiator into the fan which is viscous driven. No damage to the radiator then and driveable. The insurance assessor came out with his phone, took a few photos and was about to finish when I suggested he look underneath. Uh, uh, wasn't dressed for that but took a few blind photos. He agreed that it was worse than it looked. Some time passed before I decided to replace the front cross member myself and replace the rusty bits. Everything else pulled out so I was scarcely £150 out of pocket with a fair bit of labour. The excess was £250, the repair £4000, the value of the van £2300 so it would have been an uneconomical repair. I reckon it was better for me to suffer since it was my fault. There's no punishment in having it done. I needed to suffer.



The rear valance had been tarted up over the years but it needed replacing. £40s worth of galvanised repair panel was purchased and with a lot more labour it was fitted. The holes are for the bumper plastic lugs to locate and so the valance is open to the elements which are many and varied at the back of a van in Scotland!



There is a cable running along the back just in front of the finishing strip which carries the off-side rear light and indicator to the external socket for the towbar. This I managed to screw through not in one place but three. The first symptoms were an intermittent fusing of the wipers! Then die blinkenblinkenstoppenblinken which is a sure sign of a failed bimetallic strip, right? Hawcos supplied a new relay but couldn't tell me where it was located, nor could the handbook, repair manual or the internet. Such secrecy is just one more reason not to own a VW. Thanks to a knowledgeable mechanic at Autocare, I found its location but replacing the relay didn't fix anything. The off-side side lights were fused and fortunately I noticed the off-side indicator was dimming the dash light more than the nearside one, a sure sign that more current was being drawn. Pressing the hazards was just too much for the fuse and gradually the penny dropped! Surely I couldn't have screwed through a cable. I mean, what are the chances of hitting a round cable right in the middle and shorting out one of the inner wires. Try it, it's nigh on impossible, three times impossible! By the way, the handbook lists the fuses wrongly. Surely not. The Germans wouldn't get that wrong, they're so particular about these things. Aren't they?

Cheers, *Jim MacKay.*

Miller, Sinclair & Sutherland,

c/o Y Lounge Bar,

Pentland Hotel,

Thurso.

Weel Folkies, Word hes got round that y Impie vannie es orbitin y earth an there's bin a run on y telescopes up here but so far no-one hes made a positive identification. They keep buyin bigger telescopes which es good for y local businesses an Radio Betty Hill hes an Impie Watch set up. What wi y earth spinnin on y axis an orbitin y sun, tryin till calculate y Impie position es nigh on impossible. Nobody up here hes a clue aboot Astro physics except Wattie wi a drink in. He hes owned an Astra an reckons he es quite y expert!

While y earth's supply o' telescopes wis dryin up, I hed a phonecall from NASA asking me if we would fix y leakin sink in y International Space Station. Apparently wir sticker wis spotted on y side o' a rocket draggin an Impie vannie. They were quite concerned at first seein y remnants o' a space suit hingin oot o' y drivers flappin door. Fortunately, wan o' y astronauts hed a telescope which he hed bought before y worlds supply dried up and ascertained that hid wis indeed half o' a Dickies boilersuit which wis perfectly in keepin wi oor sticker. This request wid put us on y world stage an I wis furiously workin oot a plan when I smelled a rat. In y background at Cape Canaveral there wis an unmistakable sound o' a Metro bein revved up. Y cat wis oot o' y bag. Y BL cheelie wis playin a trick on us. He hed me goin for a whiley. Y Inverness number should hev rang y bells sooner.

Young MacKay wis none y worse o' y wear an wis plannin till auction hes half Dickies boilersuit on eBay when he found y remote for y

dashcam which he hed fitted till y Impie. Road rage, bank robberies, abductions an sheep stealin wid all be recorded fir posterity! He pressed y “play” button an up came y images o’ space on hes iphone. Yes, there wis y space station an y rocket an y reflections o’ all y telescopes in Caithness. Patrons o’ y lounge bar hev bin treated till this rare showin up on y big screen an hid hes got right busy. Business es so good we’re getting free drinks. I wouldn’t be surprised if y BBC gets in on y act.

Hits surprising how quickly we all get used till something an y novelty soon wore off. After all, we hev plenty o’ space up here North o’ y Ord an at least there’s an occasional coo or sheep till break y monotony. Yes, wi cam rotation we’d all seen y remnants o’ y boilersuit an y hole en y floor an y big fire extinguisher Young MacKay hed got from y fire cheelie en Inverness. He hes bin paranoid about fire efter hes narrow escape from y burnin Impie. However, y scene changed wan evenin, somethin hed happened. Y big fire extinguisher hed let go an Y Impie vannie wis headin home. Y webcam went oot an y rest o’ y tale es surmised. Young MacKay hed fitted big ceramic brakes till match y engine performance an painted y underside wi paint from Dounreay. Now, that paint can stand up till a nuclear reaction an wi all y ceramics we reckoned there wis a chance that y Impie vannie might survive enterin y earth’s atmosphere though we didn’t think y half o y Dickies boilersuit wid.

We can only hope. Best Regards, *Wundy Miller*.

HCMC Christmas Do

13 members turned up to play. They had no choice! On reminding Alan that he needed to change his shoes, he informed me that these were his own bowling shoes. Up until then I had never met anyone with their own bowling shoes. He had his own bowl as well! Things did not look good for me or Roy or Trish. Fortunately, Alan was a bit rusty, having all the correct actions but rusty, he was in good company. Trish started strongly by taking the lead but Roy came through and came within a point of Alan. In the second game Roy won with the highest score of the night. Working on the farm is obviously an advantage in scattering the skittles. Trish, I think, won the ladies event. The Secret Santa produced a car wash mop which means I'll have to start washing my vehicles.—Jim MacKay

Funniest part was when Richard Lashley received a box of Porridge Oats and was quite happy but I couldn't believe that anyone could be that cruel and made him open the box... inside was a nice set of spectacle/watch tools and a wee clamp.

- Miles

RECAP				
PLAYER	HCP	GAME1	GAME2	TOTAL
MILES		119	108	227
CALLUM		71	96	167
BRYAN		91	85	176
CHRIS		99	98	197
MICHAEL			79	79
SCRATCH		380	466	846
HCP				0
TOTAL		380	466	846

Press  when complete



Cars and Coffee — December 2019



The Highland Car Club donate to MFR Cash for Kids Mission Christmas at the December meeting.

It was a wet morning for the final Cars and Coffee of 2019. A good number of



people made the effort despite the weather. For some myself, included it was the need to donate gifts to Moray Firth Radio Christmas appeal.



These two classic Fords caught my eye. I love a Mk3 Cortina but a Capri isn't normally my cup of tea but something about the combination of colour and parts on this one made it stand out. Well I mean it's not a shy looking car!



There were a good number of club members at this month's event and it was nice to catch up with some in the Roller Bowl café before



braving the rain. Outside was a Blue Citroën AX belonging to member Jesse Wigman but I didn't realise it was his until he drove out. The last time I looked he had a red AX. I turned up in my daily driver Golf which I parked discreetly. On the way in to Inverness, I saw this Fiat Seicento Sporting. I wonder if it's going to Cars and Coffee, I thought? Yup.

The 2nd Boot Load of Toys and Gifts donated has been successfully delivered to MFR Cash for Kids HQ at the Telford Street Co Op. "Mission Christmas" may be over for us but MFR Cash For Kids are still hard at it collecting gifts for children who might otherwise wake up to nothing under their trees on Christmas Morning. They have had over 5000 applications for assistance this year and only have about HALF of what they need, so please keep giving!

A cheque for £300 to MFR Cash for Kids has been donated by Petrofac Anasuria



I have my ticket for the John Cleland talk. Who else going? Born in Wishaw near Glasgow he raced autocross and hillclimb in the 1970s, and won his class in the Scottish Rally Championship in 1976 driving a Mitsubishi Colt. He switched to circuit racing, achieving success in British Production Car and Thundersaloon championships in the 1980s, before joining Vauxhall for the 1989 British Touring Car Championship. He is known for his exuberant protests when things didn't go his way.

Pat Smith Rally Driver talk at Historic Wheels Club

The HWC have been exceptionally lucky to organise ex rally driver Pat Smith as their guest speaker on the 13th February next year.

Pat will recall her competition years from 1950-1991 and her most interesting account of participating in an 'all woman' entry in the 1970 World Cup Rally from London to Mexico. The meeting is open to members and non members and great attendances means more meetings like this in the future. For non members, please contact HWC to arrange a place.

February 13th 2020 at the Moray Motor Museum, Elgin. Arrive at 7 for 7.30pm.



Tickets now available for Historic Wheels Club John Cleland event at the price of £15/head (free of charge to members). Message their Facebook page, or contact Darren McWhirter on 07834422815. Numbers are limited for the 14th March at the Laichmoray hotel and are selling well so don't delay.

LOCAL EVENTS

9th Jan 2020	Auction Night	Old North Inn, Inchmore	7:30 pm For newer members, this is the highlight of the winter meetings hosted by Bryan MacIlwraith who auctions off items in friendly co-medic style. Please bring your items to sell on the night. Old tools, car parts and motoring related bric-a-brac are what we want. No cassette radios! The club takes 10% towards funds and you get the rest. Bidding normally starts at around £1 depending on the item, and normally go cheap, but to another club member, and you can get a bargain in return so it's all good. Really good!
12th Jan 2020	Cars And Coffee - Inverness	Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness	10am to 12 noon Every 2nd Sunday of the Month. A quiet Social Event for all Car Enthusiasts. Park up, buy yourself a hot drink and snack from Rollerbowl and check out what's in the Car Park. Chat to old friends and make new! Find us on FACEBOOK.
6th Feb 2020	AGM	Old North Inn, Inchmore	7:30pm Help us decide the club's future.
9th Feb 2020	Cars And Coffee - Inverness	Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness	10am to 12 noon Every 2nd Sunday of the Month.