

CLASSIC SCENE



February 2012

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The next 'Classic Scene'
GOES TO THE PRINTER
on the Monday of the week
preceding the next meeting
Please send articles by e-mail or typed.

Archivist

Ranald Smith
The club has an extensive archive of information
relating to all aspects of classic car ownership
including technical advice etc. To access this,
please contact the archivist, Ranald Smith, at
Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, Inverness IV2 3NG
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Cover picture

*1972 3.5 litre Rover P6
spotted in the Retail Park*

The Chairman's Bit

There was a good turnout for the annual auction. I thought the down turn in the economy might raise the quality of the lots as members tried to raise cash in these difficult times, but I was sadly mistaken - it was the usual rubbish! I managed to bid successfully for a new soldering iron but also managed to come home with a very second hand grilling machine (which has now been recycled).



The February meeting is the AGM and quiz. I think 2011 was a good year for the club with some very interesting visits and scenic runs. Of the visits I thought the trips to the Dalcross Control Tower, Black Isle Brewery and Portal Rover stood out and of the runs the one that really sticks in my mind was the trip to Edderton as my car caught fire on the way home! Membership is fairly healthy at around the 70 mark and I am pleased to say that we are still attracting new members. Our secretary Ian Nixon is standing down at the AGM so I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for all his efforts over the past few years.

He assures me his decision has nothing to do with being my passenger when my car filled with smoke! This does mean of course that we will need some new blood on the committee. It will not take up much of anyone's time as we only meet 2 or 3 times a year so why not give it a go? I will

be standing again for chairman if approved by the membership.

Talking of new members I have 4 to welcome this month; Grant Hodgson from Culloden Moor who has a 64 Beetle; Catriona Mackay from Huntly who owns a 1958 Wolsley 15/50; John Stott from Munloch who has a 1976 Renault 16TL and last but not least Kevin and Elaine Cormack from Inverness who have a collection consisting of a 1978 Triumph Dolomite, a 1974 Triumph GT6, a 1990 Mazda MX5 (I can't believe MX5s have been around that long) and finally a 1990 Peugeot 205. Welcome to you all.

Michael
michael.oz@btopenworld.com

This Months Meeting

Thursday 2nd February. Annual General Meeting and Quiz night at the North Kessock Hotel from 7:30

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB

Monthly meetings (1st Thursday of every month)

2012

January 5th	Annual Auction—North Kessock Hotel
February 2nd	AGM and Quiz Night—North Kessock Hotel
March 1st	tba
April 5th	Visit to Moray Motor Museum
May 3rd	Tour of Kinkell Classics
June 7th	Road run to the Altguish Inn
July 5th	Scenic drive to Coul House via Meig Dam
August 2nd	Scenic drive to Whitebridge via Foyers
September 6th	Visit to the Glen Ord Distillery

(Further details to be published in 'Classic Scene' prior to the individual meetings)

Vintage Commercial Highland Road Run 2012

The Highland Road Run for Vintage Commercials is on Saturday 5th May 2012. Start is in Alness at approx 9.30 am. and finish at the Dundonnell Hotel.

The route this year takes in the run over the Pass of the Cattle to Applecross. For the faint hearted, there is a route by passing the climb!.

All details and entry forms from :- Charlie Munro, Hillcrest, 21 Perrins Road, ALNESS. IV17 0SU.

TEL:- 01349882220

E-mail:- charlie.munro21@btinternet.com

Distillery visit; packed lunches provided; souvenir; hot rolls and tea at start; no entry fees !!!



Editorial

Hello,

Last months meeting was the annual charity auction where, for once, I managed to sell more than I bought. To my thinking, that made it a good night! The 'mystery' item attracted an unprecedented number of bids, and I only hope that the lucky winner was happy with their purchase!

In this months newsletter, we have the AGM agenda as well as news of Liz Bligh's Austin Saunter to coincide with Drive-it-Day.

We also continue the 'first cars' theme with a confession from Charlie Munro on page 7. I'm sure that more of our members have early motoring memories, and I'm starting to get to the bottom of the pile of current ones, so please, don't be shy...

Charlie's also organising another Classic Commercial run this year on the 5th of May, the day before the Forres show. As they're tackling the Bealach na Ba en-route to Applecross, I don't fancy meeting them coming the other way!

It's time to start thinking about routes for this years Drive-It-Day on April 22nd. If anyone has any suggestions, then please let me know in the next few weeks. Please bear in mind that we have all types of vehicles taking part, some of which, don't go very fast!

We seem to attract cars from near and far now, and our Stadium Road starting point pulls in lots of people just to see the cars lined up. I'm hoping that this year, the



Highland Classic Motorcycle Club will also be joining us.

This months outing is the Annual General Meeting followed, very quickly, by the Quiz night. For those that want to help organise club events, this is the ideal opportunity to volunteer for one of the vacant posts. Our current secretary, Ian Nixon, is leaving us after a number of years, so we'll be on the lookout for someone to fill his shoes. Also, If anyone has an editorial flair, I would be only too happy to relinquish control of this newsletter! Here's hoping...

The March meeting venue has still not been finalised yet, so keep an eye on the website for advance notice of where it will be.

If you've not yet taken the plunge, you can subscribe by clicking the link on the front of the club website:

www.highlandclassic.org.uk

Callum

editor@highlandclassic.ndo.co.uk

Local Events Diary

Here are some details of 2012 local motoring events that may be of interest to our members

April

22nd 'Drive It Day' 2012. Local run in conjunction with the FBHVC to blow away the cobwebs. Meet at 10:30 on Stadium Road for a short run around the local area.

May

5th Vintage Commercial Highland Road Run.. Contact charlie.munro21@btinternet.com

6th Forres Theme Day

31st-5th June Shetland Classic Motor Show & Tours

June

2nd Kirkhill Gala Day

3rd Fraserburgh Vintage Car Rally

17th Tain Vintage vehicle Rally

30th Gairloch Gathering. Contact Douglas Gibson

douglasg@burach.org.uk

July

7th/8th 38th Scottish Transport Extravaganza at Glamis Castle

August

12th Historic Wheels Rally, Brodie Castle.

19th Dunrobin Vintage Car Rally

25th Fortrose Vintage Vehicle Rally

September

1st Dingwall Street Fair. Contact Donald Mackenzie 01349 861009

2nd Motor Mania—Grantown on Spey

8th/9th Knockhill Classic SpeedFair

15th/16th Selkirk Rally

If you notice any errors or omissions, please let the editor know.

Losing My Motoring Cherry!

My first car was, as you say, from the black and white days ! Coming home from the Army in 1960, and not feeling inclined to go back to work in the family butchers shop with my father, I got a job working in a shop in Perth. Wages were better anyway! Problem now arose, how to get home from Perth at weekends. Around this time I had, and still have, a great fancy for a TR2. I found one for sale in Inverness, but the stumbling block was, as usual, not enough money. Father agreed to help out, but by the time it took me to get round my mother, the damn thing was sold. As a substitute I had to make do with a car my father sourced, a 1953 Morris Oxford. Could not have been more different than a TR2! However beggars cannot be choosers. I must say it did not get anywhere in a hurry but was reliable and got me home to Alness at weekends.

After a few months I got the hankering for something with a bit more speed, and made a deal with a chap in Perth to

do a straight swap for his lovely Norton Dominator motor bike. The exchange was to be on the following Monday, but as luck would have it I went to a party in Crieff on the Saturday night, and somehow fell asleep at the wheel on the way home to the digs late at night. I came to about 4.00am to find a telegraph pole dangling in front of the windscreen and the engine and gearbox under the front seat!! There being nobody around way out in the country at that time I climbed into the back seat and fell asleep!! All this and being totally oblivious to the fact that I now had no eyebrows, a broken nose, and had lost all the hair from the front of my head! It must have been the shock or something!! Around 7.00 am someone must have summoned the local bobby and an ambulance, and after a brief discussion with the constable (No honestly officer, I was not drinking, just fell asleep.) I was whisked away to Perth Infirmary, where I stayed for just over two weeks. Needless to say I never saw my old

Oxford again. I wonder what the 'scrapppies thought when they found my skin and hair on the old fashioned knobs on the dashboard !! I had a lot of explaining to do when I eventually got home to Alness.

I was made to stay and work at home ever since that. Think it was about two months before my face



healed and I was decent enough to work in the front shop again !!! There then followed a few years with a Vauxhall Victor estate, three speed column change and all. I did my first few beginners rallies with that car. That was really entertaining when you forgot you only had three gears and then the brakes would overheat and you had no stopping power. Used to sound great with its 'Golden tone' straight through exhaust, - nothing changes !

1965 saw our very first new car, the hottest thing in the whole North, a brand new George Hartwell Hillman Imp. Used to murder 1275 Mini Cooper S's. I hitched all the way down to Bournemouth to collect the car and drove it home to Alness. I think that must count as one of the most enjoyable runs of my life. Hartwell removed the standard Hillman Imp engine and installed their own 998cc motor, lowered suspension, uprated brakes, the lot !! Afraid all good things never last too long - the poor wee thing was stolen from outside the house and written off a mile along the road by



two drunks. However a pal and I had the satisfaction, after lying in wait in some bushes, of catching one of the culprits trying to sneak home in the dark. He was only too glad to see the Police and come clean after we had attended to him !!! After this episode we had a long association with Morris Minors, Hillmans etc. etc. Various new cars appeared over the years and it was about the mid seventies that the Classic bug bit (but that's another long story).

Nearly forgot - one of the joys of my life was the purchase, in 1970, of a brand new Ford Escort Twin Cam. How I wish I had one of them now. That remained for two years before going away to make room for an old Ford Cortina estate and the first racing car. This was to be the beginning of nearly ten years of involvement in motor racing at all levels. That however is another story.



Charlie Munro

Austin



Calling all Austins!!

I am seeking expressions of
interest for a proposed
Austin Rally.

DRIVE IT DAY

20th - 23rd April, 2012.

The base will be the
Golf View Hotel, Nairn.

Please contact Liz Bligh on
liz@westbeachnairn.com
by the 20th March, 2012

Miles's Meanderings



Yeah! It's 2012! Anyone managed to get tickets for the Olympics? Anyone manage to get tickets to an event that they actually want to watch!?

I quite fancied the Beach Volleyball myself but knowing my luck I would have ended up at the Equestrian Dressage or something or even worse, the BMX Cycling. Is that even a sport? In my day BMX Cycling was something you did if you couldn't get the hang of changing gear on a proper bicycle!

Anyway, another year, another winter, four whole months in which to knuckle down in your cosy garage and crack on with all those essential short and long term maintenance projects that you have been building up a list of in your heads....

No? Me neither and it hasn't even been that cold so I can't use that as an excuse. It's Okay though it's at least four.... Oh crap it's only two months 'til the dreaded M.O.T. is due again!

Do you know, this isn't supposed to be an expensive hobby (at least that's what I tell the wife) but I didn't even manage to put the Scimitar on SORN this year and redeem any of the extortionate, day light robbery, that is the road fund licence for a 35 year old car that manages to do about 300 miles annually if I'm lucky.



With the Road Tax at over 200 pounds, by my reasoning, that's about 3 quid a mile it costs me, before I've even coughed up half a weeks wages to Tesco's for fuel let alone bunged another ton in the direction of an Insurance Vulture and now I haven't SORN'd it I feel like I just rented my own flaming garage for 100 quid as well!

Maybe a “flaming garage” is what I need and I might recoup some of my hard earned cash from said Vultures.

Talking of “To Do Lists” and “Winter Projects” is anyone looking for one because I got talking to a chap near Tain last month and he has a few for sale. I didn’t intend finding anymore but you know how it is; one minute a tip off from Alice about an interesting “Rust in Peace” candidate tucked behind a shed on the old Fearn Airfield and the next, you’re lost and chatting to a fellow petrolhead about what is lying about his yard and how much he might take for any of them (I haven’t found the R.I.P. one yet).

So if anyone is interested, this very nice fellow called Malcolm has the following for sale; there is an “L reg.” genuine GT Beetle that is complete but needing the usual welding (it can’t be as bad as Callum’s Dyane!), a rather interesting “N reg.” Saab V4 that has been in a shed for years and needs lots of work and he also has a brace of Landrovers, one “H reg.” and one “J reg.”

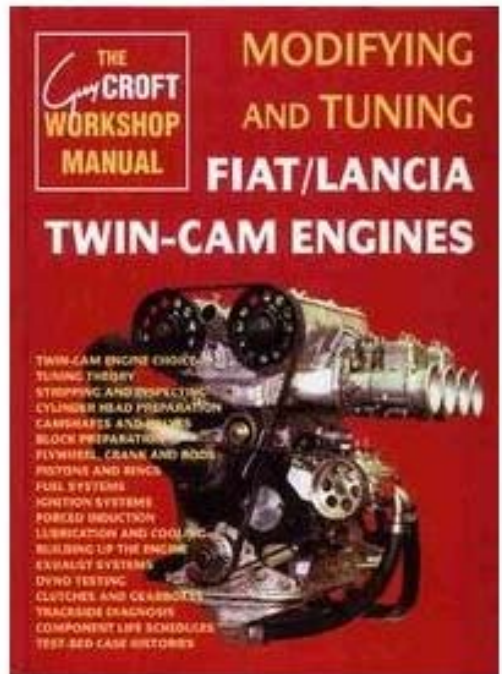
He also informs me that he has a number of Fiat Twin Cam engines that he regularly falls over in his garage. They were saved from

scrappers for engine swaps at some stage but he ended up building a “Cobra” Replica and stuck a 7ltr. Chevy in it (or something similar) so has no need for them now.

There is a 1600, a 2000 and a 1600 Turbo. Take your pick. One of them would liven up you Morris Minor or A35!

Call me on 01463 711976 or 07780956248 and I’ll give you his number. First come first served. Oh and I also know of a chap that may part with a “good” Lotus 2+2 if the money is right and you ask nicely!

MILES





HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 8.00 pm 2nd FEBRUARY 2012
North Kessock Hotel.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies.
2. Minutes of 2011 AGM (previously circulated in March 2011 "Classic Scene")
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Annual Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Determination of Annual Subscription.
7. Election of Office Bearers: Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; and 4 Committee Members (currently Roy MacGregor, Miles Vincent, Ranald Smith, Alice Brown), plus Bryan McIlwraith (Membership Secretary) and Callum Beveridge (Classic Scene Editor and Web Master).
8. AOCB.