

CLASSIC SCENE



February 2017



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ARCHIVIST

The club has an extensive archive of information relating to all aspects of classic car ownership. To access this please contact Ranald Smith, at Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, Inverness IV2 3NG. 01463 236459
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CLASSIC SCENE

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.

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COVER PICTURE

Seen in Inverness Town Centre recently, BMW's i8 hybrid sports car. Oops, wrong picture!

THE EDITORS MONTHLY RANT.

Apologies to BMW but I couldn't resist having a pop at my favourite make of car. (Er, well, possibly.....not!) It was the i8 hybrid, a high performance petrol/electric car that's yours for about £100,000.



Just as interesting is where the car is parked. A "Car Club" parking bay? From what little I could find out it's a system where if you join a participating club and you can park for free in the bay. Sadly it doesn't seem to be a reserved bay for our club members! The car had plates on it from Focus Vehicle Rentals here in Inverness and a quick look at their website shows that it is available for hire. So if you want a free days parking in town pop along to Focus and you can have free parking for only £256.80 per day. But if, like me, you would rather have something much more eco friendly and acceptable to those of a nervous disposition, they have a 5.0 Ford Mustang for only £139.80 per day. So if your birthday is coming up soon..... (Ahem, 13th April) and you really want to help air quality in the town centre.....

CHAIR BITTY FEBRUARY 2017

One year and another club auction later. Plenty of items for sale with one or two old familiars popping up, although bidding was not so hot this year. Are we getting to the stage that we have everything we want/ need? Surely not! But there was still room for some high bid items, like the generator. We raised £15.50 for club funds.



I usually mention something about commuting at this point. I got so fed up with late trains and generally the extra time it takes that I decided to go back to travelling by car. Makes about 0.5 hrs difference in the morning, but I gain most time at night as I can leave a little earlier and can nearly make it home by the time I would otherwise set out for the train. And to save a little monies on petrol we bought a cheap little Skoda from our local garage (55mpg instead of 30mpg with the Merc). All I have to contend with now is some impatient people who think that 60 on single carriageway is way to slow. Or folk at the Munlochry turn-off who believe anyone on the dual carriage way should give way to them.

It was an interesting commute the other day when it finally decided to snow. Pretty uneventful on the way in, although I was tempted to do a handbrake turn in the car park. There is something about a clear car park with a pristine (thin) covering of snow..... but I was boring and resisted the temptation. One the way home it really started throwing the snow down, especially by the time we got passed the Cromarty bridge. Around Evanton it was pretty much walking pace with near white-out conditions. The wee back road to our village has one twisty bend in it and is notorious for cars, going west, to go straight on into the fields (about a 1m drop). So too this night, but rather than going through the fence, the car was stuck in the fence. Judging by the tracks the car was going east, so how he/ she managed to park it in the west facing fence I am not too sure.

It may be meteorologically mid winter, but our garden doesn't seem to agree with that. The crocus and narcissus are already making an appearance and I am certain the grass is still growing. It is starting to look distinctly untidy, but not so bad yet that I feel inclined to get the mower out. Alice claimed that she saw one of the blue-tits eyeing up the nestbox in the leylandii. The one they looked at last year but kept getting chased off by a pigeon. The pigeon had a nest higher up in the tree and obviously didn't like anyone else setting up home in the same tree. See who wins this year. I may have to give the Blue-tit a helping hand by cutting back some of the branches close to the nesting box. Interfering in evolution I think it is called.

This months meet is our AGM. The time for you to influence the running of the club. The committee had a think about a few things to do in the coming year, but we would like your input too, so get to the meeting with ideas for things to do, places to visit or perhaps a subject you would like to know more on.

See you there.

Trish.

2nd Feb 2017 February Club AGM.

Old North Inn, The Club AGM 7.30pm.

Next Year's Diary to be filled with help from the Membership on the night! So Your Attendance and Input is Requested.



HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Old North Inn, Inchmore
Thursday, 2nd FEBRUARY 2017 at 7.30pm**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies.
2. Minutes of 2016 AGM (previously circulated in March 2016 and this months issue of "Classic Scene").
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Chair's Annual Report.
5. Committee reports on last year.
 - 5.1 Treasurer's
 - 5.2 Membership Secretary
 - 5.3. Event Co-Ordinator
 - 5.4. Website and Club Forum
6. Determination of Annual Subscription.
7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members.
8. Members feedback and ideas for future visits.
9. AOCB

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4th February 2016 – 7.45pm. Old North Inn

Present.

Trish Brown, Alan Goff, Jane Goff, Callum Beveridge, Mark Wilson, Miles Vincent, Ian Thomson, Alice Brown, Bryan McIlwraith. Derek Darnell, Tom MacCallum, Liz Bligh, Douglas Hird, Ranald Coyne, Ewen Stirling, Ivan Murphy, Grant Anderson, Frank Ross,.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including our new members Ranald Coyne, Ewen Stirling and Ivan Murphy.

Apologies.

Apologies were received from Ranald Smith Hughie Urquhart, Gordon Jamieson Calum Pearson

2. Minutes of 2015 AGM. The minutes were passed as an accurate account of the 2015 AGM. Proposer Miles Vincnet, seconder Tom McCallum.

3. Matters Arising.

The Club has bought bumper badges which are on sale for a subsidised price of £15. The Chair thanked Ian Thomson for his great work in getting the badges sourced and purchased.

4.Chairman's Report.

The Chair reported that we had a busy year, although 2 visits didn't happen (visit to PortalRover and Cairngorm Brewery). The club visited Burghhead, the engine shed in Aviemore, Inver Models, Autohead Recon and Calum Pearson's Garage, the Chair thanked all those who organised these visits.

5. Committee Reports on 2015

5.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a balance of £2157.70 at year end, he reported that this was down on last year, mainly due to the purchase of the badges, the club banner and funding for

refreshments on Drive It Day. Noted that the proceeds from the auction was down from the previous year.

5.2 - Membership Secretary Report

Bryan McIllwraith informed the meeting that the club has at the moment 65 paid up members. There is a new membership system being developed by Callum Beveridge which has allowed for the mailing list being drastically reduced, now only 18 members receiving a printed newsletter in place of 40.

5.3– Events

Miles Vincent informed the meeting that the Club has had a presence at many of the Classic Car Shows across the Highlands, using the Club's events shelter. If any member wishes to use the shelter at events, they should contact Miles. He went on to reiterate to look at the club forum for the up to date information regarding shows and events.

5.4 - Website

Callum Beveridge informed the meeting that the new membership system will be in place in due course, with the facility to search for members and their vehicles. The security and data protection concerns have been addressed as part of the design of this system.

6. Determination of Annual Subscription.

After discussions about the subscription, it was agreed that current level of £15.00 will remain. Proposed by Ian Thomson and seconded by Bryan McIllwraith.

7. Election of Office Bearers.

Liz Bligh proposed to elect the current Committee and Office Bearers, this was seconded by Grant Anderson. All Committee members and Office bearers were re-elected unopposed. Noted that both the Webmaster and Editor would like to stand down. Members are requested to put their names forward at the next AGM.

8. Members Feedback and ideas for future visits

The following calendar for 2016/17 has been agreed with members, although some visits are subject to confirmation:- Please always

the latest club magazine or club website.

Editors Note:- In the original minutes there followed a grid showing 2016 events. In order to save space I have not included them in this item. The full list was in the original circulation.

Other events not run by the club highlighted were:

Drive it Day, 24th April. Provisional start point at the V8 Cafe, with a run round to Beaulieu via Strathglass. Tea and Coffee at the Slaters Arms in Cannich. The members agreed for the club to fund the refreshments.

9. AOCB

Xmas: The membership were asked for their views on secret santa, or xmas dinner. The general feeling that the secret santa was good, but the xmas event did need better support, as did the Auction.

The meeting was informed that if anyone wished to organise a weekend trip, please feel free to do so, this was in response to a number of enquiries regarding weekend runs.

There was discussion about the possibility of another drive it day later in the year. It was agreed that this would be organised as a trip to Fort Augustus, possible in September. Callum Beveridge agreed to organise this. The publicity for this would be by word of mouth at the various events the club attends during the year and at this year's Drive It Day.

Inverness car show is being held on the 7th May this year and members are advised to register early as last years show was over subscribed.

Grampian Transport Museum in Alford are holding a How Many Are Left event on the 26th May this year.. This is for vehicles who number less than 200.

Meeting closed 9.00pm

A Hello and an Introduction - Porsche 944 – A Work in (Slow) Progress

Firstly I better introduce myself since I am a new member to the club: My name is Graeme and I live in Killen on the Black Isle. I have been around cars my whole life and I am also an avid motorsport fan being brought up around the track sprint and rallying communities.

I had been looking for a car for a while and really did fancy a Mk2 escort, still do, but with rising prices and still with some doubt in my mind if I would have used the car enough to justify the money I settled on a car I have always liked the look of and was within my budget, a Porsche 944.



Now Porsche's have always been notorious for their model ranges and minor variations but I went in open minded with a small list of pre-requisites. I had my budget set, the car had to have decent history, MOT and rear seat belts (rare until after 1986). After keeping an eye out for a while and looking at countless cars I narrowed my choice to 2 cars both in London only 10 miles from each other. The first was a 1989 944 2.7 Lux in black and the other was the same in white with a few extra options and with aftermarket stripes (the reason I think it wasn't selling). After again enquiring about both only 1 bothered to get back to me, a regular occurrence I find when dealing with cars down south, and I decided that it was worth a look.

After returning from the North Sea I flew to Gatwick from Inverness then got the transfer bus to Heathrow. I then caught a taxi for the last

6 miles at a cost of £40 (who do they think they are, Aberdeen taxi drivers).

With the deal done the journey began, just under 600 miles from London to the Black Isle. It took me 1.5hrs to do the first 30 miles thanks to the M25 but on I went. The journey went well through England with only a minor direction mishap which had me leave the M1, join the M6 and then M69 before managing to get back to the M1. I stopped in at a friend in Middlesbrough for food and a break before resuming the journey to the North and home. The car performed brilliantly and I arrived home at around 4.15am, a journey I would not attempt in that time frame again knowing what I do now.



After getting home I got down to taking the car to some shows; my first was Forres Theme Day where I met up with the Porsche Club GB team. Around the same time I joined the social media site Instagram and as a car lover started sharing pictures online, it didn't take long to start seeing some like-minded people on there, one of whom was Miles. After some comments back and forth we finally met at the Fortrose Vintage Rally where after a short discussion the Highland Classic Motor Club came up, fancy that! After meeting a few others on the day I decided to join and met quite a few of you all in November which was brilliant. I was very kindly welcomed in and immediately loved the diverse mix of

cars in the club and the great people who own them.

I have now had the car almost a year and after addressing the major issues that I wanted to get after am enjoying the car and hopefully will make more shows this year depending on my rota. The car has had new front brake callipers, full service with water pump and belt change, replacement of the steering wheel with an original unit and I removed the stripes the car came with which is how some of you may have seen the car at the 2016 shows.



Into 2017 I am sure more money will be spent with a long list of Ebay watched items earmarked but my primary goal is to enjoy the car along with the club and look forward to meeting more of you at the club meets and shows.

Graeme