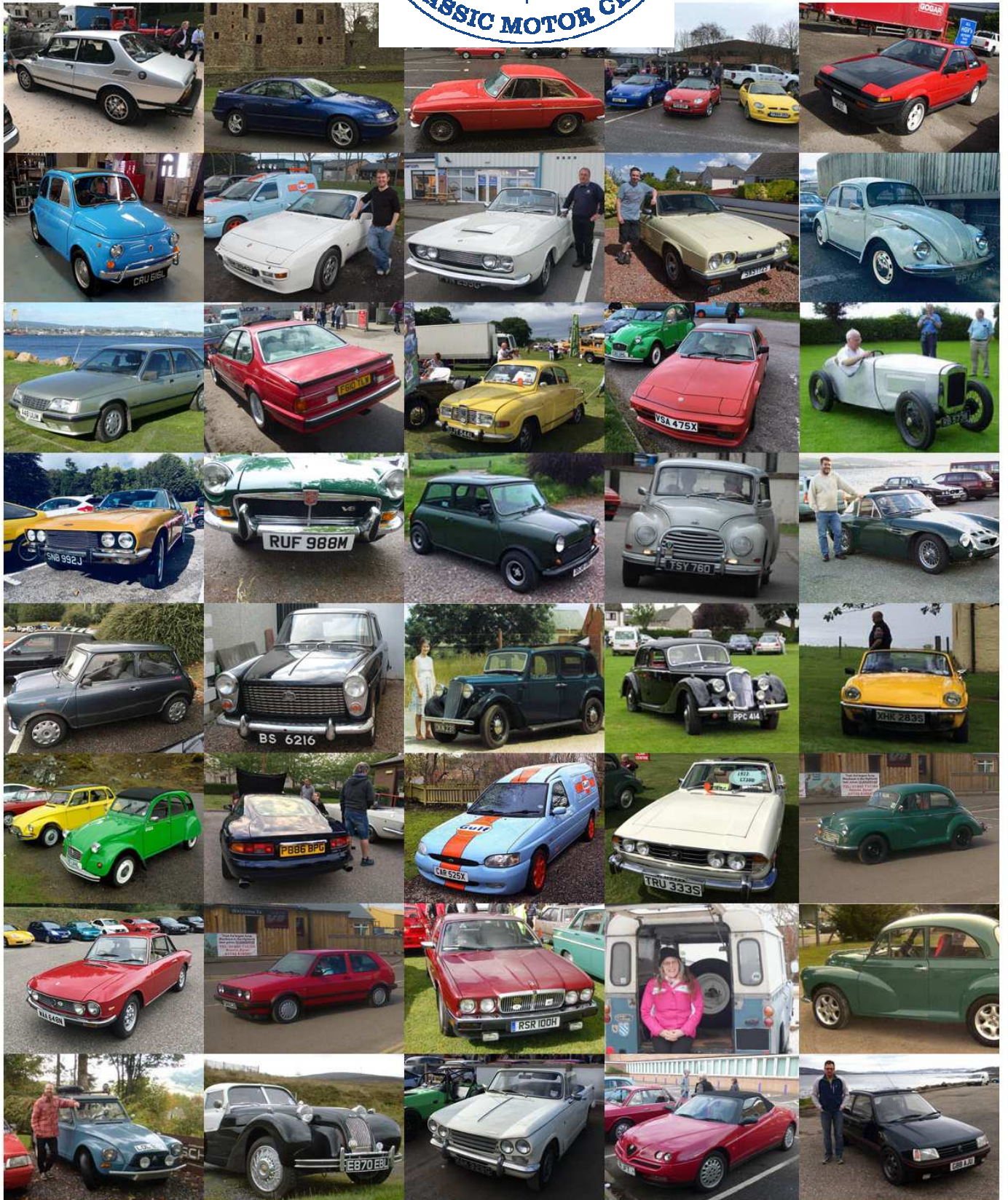




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ARCHIVIST

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

40 Classics to celebrate 40 years. See if you can spot yours? These pictures have been harvested from old newsletters, the club website and our Facebook page.

Welcome to the February Newsletter.

As part of the 40th year celebrations I have been perusing old copies of the newsletter. My first impression was the standard of previous editors and they are a hard act to follow. It seems that in the days of yore, the newsletter had a couple of anonymous contributors. I wasn't in the club then but I believe one was called "The Couch" and at the Alness Rally, year 2000, a mysterious actual couch arrived outside the marquee (see newsletter excerpt below). The alleged perpetrators of this homage, were tailed by the police during their midnight mission. I'm looking for some Couch contributions from old newsletters, so if anyone can help, let me know, or maybe I'll find something.

Another anonymous contributor was Gunn, of Gunn Swanson Gunn & Mackay, an example of which you can find at the back of this Newsletter. Many long term members have asked if we can reprint these old letters, and so at last, here one is. Let me know if you enjoyed it and I'll dig out some more.

In the editors garage this month I have been welding up the metal under the rear quarter light of the Mini and sprayed on some random Halfords green acrylic paint for now. There was a wee rusty hole that was letting the rain in, and of course when investigated, the hole got bigger.

Also in the garage I have been fixing the Golf clutch pedal, which is a known failure: a weak bracket that snaps off. You can replace the pedal, which looks *very* difficult or weld in a repair, which I did, though welding upside down in a foot well wasn't much fun either. I had a stiff neck for the rest of the day. The clutch now works though the biting point feels a little bit different. I found a plus side to this failure; the Golf was fairly easy to change gear in without a clutch. I tried it in the Focus. Uh uh. Graunch.

Then the Focus Mk1 (Emerging classic! Honestly!) got a new exhaust flexi pipe welded in. This is behind the engine, above the steering rack. Yes there was swearing. It was awful.

I hope you enjoy this months newsletter,

Your editor.



Amongst other personalities at the Rally was the well known Clu Newsletter correspondent "The Couch" from the Black Isle. Despite the promises, the true identity of the person concerned remains shrouded in mystery although the respite afforded to weary limb the day was much appreciated! Thanks to all of who took part, the rally was once again an outstanding success - but almost as soon as it was over, the planning started again for next years event!

Chairs Bitty

A necessary family visit meant that we were unable to attend this year's auction. A shame really as we had been collecting stuff. Oh well, it will keep until next year. I am sure that those who attended will have had a good time. No doubt I will be able to read up on this elsewhere in the magazine.



Just before Christmas we cleared the garage so we could park up the Smart for the winter.

I needed to move some planks that were gracing the garage floor. Rather than bending down, I got down on my knees and reached over to push the planks and that was as far as I got. My back locked up and I couldn't move. And this a few days before we were due to head south to visit family - which easily turned out to be the most uncomfortable journey ever! When we arrived at my parents, my mother was wondering who the old woman was that crawled out of the car, before she realised it was me. My mum is not that agile any more but for a few days she easily outpaced me when walking. I am a lot better now.

Once we were back home I decided that it would be useful to fuel up the Skoda before I returned to work. I got the remote out, but the car refused to unlock. Ditto results with the spare remote. Oh well, I'll open the car with the key; and promptly set off the alarm. And would it shut up? Pressing the remote had zero effect and the car wouldn't start. Only then I noticed that the dash lights were behaving funny. Turned out that the battery was flat, not flat enough to stop the alarm blaring. Thank goodness it was Saturday afternoon and not Monday 7am – I would not have been popular. The battery was put on charge for the rest of the day and the next morning we went for a long Sunday afternoon drive to make sure the battery was fully charged.

The weather has now turned to proper winter. We've seen some snow and have had to scrape the car in the morning. Well, we call this winter, but if any of you have followed the weather in the Alps you know of the incredible amounts of snow that people there have to deal with. Several meters worth of the stuff. And still they manage to get about. I have real respect for the people there. They just seem to get on with it, rather than whinging over who is going to clear the path.

This year is the club's 40th anniversary. At our last committee meeting we've had some thoughts about how to celebrate this milestone. If you have ideas about something to do / see / visit at one of our club meets, do raise it at our AGM this month. We meet at the Old North Inn at 7.30pm.

See you there,

Trish.

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Old North Inn, Inchmore
Thursday, 7th February 2019 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies.
2. Minutes of 2018 AGM (previously circulated in March 2018 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. Newsletter printing
9. Club Ruby Anniversary
10. AOCB

2019 Events Calendar

2019		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Who to Organise</i>
3rd January	Auction Night, Old North Inn	Trish Brown/Bryan McIlwraith
7th February	AGM, Old North Inn	Trish Brown/Alice Brown
7 th March	Quiz Night, Old North Inn	Mark Wilson
4 th April	Bitz engine cleaning, Nairn	Bryan MacIlwraith
2 nd May	Pub run to Highfield House	Callum Beveridge
6 th June	Drive each other's cars, Brokies Lodge, Kiltarlity	Club Membership
4 th July	Club Ruby anniversary run	Club Membership
1 st August	Regularity Run	Bryan McIlwraith
5 th Sept	Chips and Ice Cream run to Nairn Harbour	Club Membership
3 rd October	Club's 40 th Anniversary	Club Committee
7 th Nov	TBC	
5 th Dec	TBC	
2020		
9 th January	Auction Night	
6 th February	AGM	

Graeme has kindly offered to host a BBQ at his house on a weekend in July 2019, the date and details is to be confirmed nearer the time.

Other ideas for club visits:

Airport Control Tower, Coastguard helicopter base and a visit to Tom Meridith's classic car collection.

Drive it day should be on 28th April 2019. Route and starting venue to be confirmed.

Remember to check the website for the latest details. 19:30 meeting time un-

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

1st February 2018 – 7.45pm. Old North Inn, Inchmore

Present. Alice Brown, Trish Brown, Ian Thomson, Alan Goff, Ranald Coye, Calum Pearson, Callum Beveridge, Mark Wilson, Miles Vincent, Bryan McIlwraith. Frank Ross, Callum MacAdam, Kenny Barclay, John Eastwood, Ian Beaton, Richard Lashley, Chris Silver, John MacKenzie, Ranald Smith, Tom MacCallum

Apologies. Apologies were received from Greame Bremner, Derek Darnell, David Keith

1. Welcome and apologies

Trish Brown welcome the member to the AGM of the Highland Classic Motor Club.

2. Minutes of 2017 AGM. The minutes were passed as an accurate account of the 2017 AGM. Proposer Alan Goff, seconder Kenny Barclay.

3. Matters Arising. Matters Arising.

Trish Brown apologised on behalf of the Club to John Eastwood and Mark Wilson for mistakes made during the year. The donation to the Highland Hospice has not been done yet. This will be taken forward by the Committee.

4. Chairman's Report.

The Chair reported that a number of proposed visits for last year fell though mainly due to lack of third party response. In addition attendance at some club meets was rather poor. She thanked all those who organised the events in the past year.

5. Committee Reports on 2017

5.1 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a balance of £1883.06 at year end, Expenditure is down from last year mainly down to the last years purchase of the badges. The committee had agreed to make a donation of £250 to Children in Need. The Chair review the accounts post meeting and verified them as true and accurate.

5.2 Membership Secretary Report

Bryan McIlwraith informed the meeting that the club has at the moment 64 paid up members, 13 late payment members and 186 non current or lapsed members. This is holding fairly steady over the years.

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 reminded members to visit the club forum for the up to date information regarding shows and events. There will be an additional event this year with Graeme Bremner holding a BBQ. This will be on a Sunday during July, details to be confirmed. He also informed the meeting that the club has a presence on Facebook, but the website and newsletter are the primary forms of communication for members.

5.4 Website

Callum Beveridge informed the meeting that most of the topics have been covered already. He and Bryan MacIllwraith confirmed that under the Data Protection Act, the Club does not need to be registered, though with proposed legislation changes this will be kept under review.

6. Determination of Annual Subscription.

The meeting unanimously agreed that the subscription should remain at the current level of £15.00.

7. Election of Office Bearers.

The Chair informed the meeting that Alice Brown, Secretary will be standing down from this position at the next AGM, and therefore Members are asked to consider standing as her replacement.

No further changes were proposed to Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee and these members were unanimously re-elected.

Membership proposed that Graeme Bremner should be contacted with a view to joining the Committee.

8. Members Feedback and ideas for future visits

The following calendar for 2017/18 has been agreed with members, although visits are subject to confirmation.

2018		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Who to Organise</i>
1 st March	Pub Run to the Dores Inn (meet at Tesco Holm Mills)	Club Membership
5 th April	Inverness Airport Control Tower (TBC)	Tom MacCallum
3 rd May	(TBC)	
7 th June	Driver skills test (TBC)	Miles Vincent
5 th July	Pub Run	Club Membership
1 st August	Chippie run to Grantown	Calum Pearson
6 th Sept	(TBC)	
4 th October	Visit to Moray Motor Museum	Bryan McIllwraith
5 th Nov	Visit to Rimtech	Richard Lashley
1 st Dec	Christmas Party Ceilidh, Old North Inn	Bryan MacIllwaith, Tom MacCallum
6 th Dec	Naval Talk, Fortrose Sailing Club	Calum Pearson
2019		
3 rd January	Auction Night, Old North Inn	Trish Brown/Bryan McIllwraith
7 th February	AGM, Old North Inn	Trish Brown

Other events not run by the club highlighted were:

Drive it Day, 22nd April. Provisional start point at the V8 Cafe, with the route to be determined. Proposals for routes can be posted on the Club Forum. The members agreed for the club to fund the refreshments.

Inverness car show is being held on the 12th May this year and members are advised to register early as last years show was over subscribed.

Other visits being investigated by the Membership include:

Visit to the Coastguard Helicopter Base at Dalcross – Alan Goff

Track Day, Littleferry Kart Track Golspie – Callum MacAdam to gather more information

9. AOCB

John Eastwood told the meeting that the times of the meetings are missing from the website ticker tape. This will be sorted by the Webmaster.

Frank Ross asked about club membership cards. This will be taken forward at the forthcoming Committee Meeting.

Miles Vincent reminded the meeting that the Club Badge can be added to clothing at the Sign Centre, Harbour Road, Inverness.

Meeting closed 8:50pm

The Mini is 60 this year

We're not the only ones have an anniversary this year.

The iconic Mini turns 60.

Demonstrated to the press in April 1959, and officially announced to the public on 26 August 1959 as the Morris Mini-Minor or Austin Seven.



Ford famously purchased a Mini, dismantled it and determined that BMC must have been losing around £30 per car. BMC insisted that the way company overheads were shared out, the Mini always made money. Larger profits came from the popular De Luxe models and from optional extras such as seat belts, door mirrors, a heater and a radio, which would be considered necessities on modern cars, as well as the various Cooper and Cooper S models.



January Club Meeting - Auction Night

This event is an annual highlight and Bryan was on form making us laugh then buy items, whether we needed them or not. Every year I promise I won't go daft and this year took limited cash; however some items were just too hard to resist e.g. A Sykes-Pickavant brake flaring tool, won at a bargain price. I've used it and is brilliant. I couldn't believe it when a Clio front strut came up and I needed one. Bryan immediately increased bidding to £20 and though I won it for less than that another member shouted out that it was bound to be for the wrong side. Oh the banter. Luckily it's not sided and it is the right part. Having overspent, I had little left when the two desirable (rusty) tins of Waxoyl came up. I was quickly out bid. The two highest bidders then did a deal afterwards for a tin each. Oh it's high drama at auction night.

Numbers were down being so close to New Year but the quality of items (not mine—sorry) lead to some good bidding and about £60 was raised for club funds.

Calum Pearson



practical CLASSICS

Best British Car Club of the Year Competition

In December's newsletter I mentioned that we have entered the Practical Classics 'Best British Car Club of the Year' competition, thinking it would be a nice way to help celebrate our 40th year. Well I'm pleased to say that we've made it to the short list of 30, out of 150 entrants and the only Scottish club on the list. The next stage is a second round of voting online at

www.practicalclassics.co.uk/bbcccoty

The final ten will be revealed at the Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show at the NEC on March 22-24.

Once the top ten clubs have been revealed the Practical classics team will embark on a two week road trip from the 24th June to the 5th of July on their hunt for the best club.

The PC Team plan to bring their Jensen Interceptor, Citroen Dyane, Morris Minor and TR6. The sponsors Footman James Insurance will be in their restored VW Type 25 van handing out goodies.

You can read what they say about our club at practicalclassics.co.uk

Now get voting.

www.practicalclassics.co.uk/bbcccoty

YOUR TOP 30 CLUBS

1. Boston Classic Car Club (Lincs).
2. Classic Rover Club NI (Northern Ireland).
3. Coleshill Auto Breakfast Meet (West Mids).
4. Doncaster Traditional Car Club (South Yorkshire).
5. East Coast Retros (East Anglia).
6. Glossop Vehicle Club (North Derbyshire).
7. Great North Road Vintage and Classic Vehicles (Lincs).
8. H Town Classic & Dub Club (Herts).
9. Highland Classic Motor Club (Scotland).
10. Ipswich & Suffolk Mini Club.
11. Locks Heath Classic Car Club (Hampshire).
12. M6 J16 Motoring Club (Cheshire).
13. MG Owners Club (East Surrey branch).
14. Morris Minor OC (North Yorkshire branch).
15. Morris Minor OC (Lincs branch).
16. Morris Minor OC (South Cheshire branch).
17. North West Casual Classics (NW England).
18. North West Kit Car Owners Group (NW England).
19. Norwich Classic Vehicle Owners Club.
20. Pembrokeshire Classic Car Club.
21. Scotch Piper Classics (NW England).
22. Storrington Classic & Sportscar Enthusiasts (Sussex).
23. Silverstone Social Classic Car Club (Northants).
24. South Wales Classic Car Club.
25. Torbay Old Wheels Club (Devon).
26. TR Register (London branch).
27. TVR Owners Club (Hampshire branch).
28. Wiltshire V-Dub Club.
29. Wirral Classic Car Club (NW England).
30. Yorkshire Thoroughbred Car Club.

* List in alphabetical order

In February 2010, Highland Heaps was providing good magazine articles.

Highland Heaps

Restoration projects spotted in and around the Highlands.



Abandoned Citroen CX



Cortina in Crisis

Car and Coffee 13th January 2019



So on a bleak mid-winter Sunday, Cars and Coffee still managed to draw a decent number of vehicles. For me and several others the car of the day was the red base model Austin Metro 1.0L which came all the way from Buckie. It is amazing the reaction ordinary cars from the 1980's get these days. Also from afar were a nice bunch of lads from Skye in their more modern Fiestas.



There was a Subaru from the GB270 owners club, a selection of air cooled VWs, Volvos an Aston, a Land Rover and much more.



The best thing as usual was the relaxed atmosphere and chat. Rollerbowl is turning out to be a really good venue.

Roll on the fair weather meetings. It can only get better.



*Gunn Swanson Gunn & Mackay
Land Speed Support Group
c/o The Public Bar
MacKays Hotel
Wick*

Dear Folkies

Both y RAC an their Scottish arm, the RSAC only recognise an sanction attempts on y *British* land speed record. Thats what we were telt when we asked wir local sportin body, y Brabster Car, Commercial & Caravan Club(inc Friends of the Henderland No 2 Tractor Plough) til gie them a ringie an find oot what y Scottish record was stannin at. Now folkies we're a fairly multi-cultural cosmopolitan County up here north o y Ord and although we hev neither a firm view on y single currency nor a dislike o Alex Salmond we were at first filled wi dismay but then y barman in Mackays Hotel says that at least wi no record stannin even young Mackay should be able til cover two miles at somewhere above 10 mph. Mackay just laughed an announced he wis goin for 250 an that wis just for starters!

So Swift o Achavanich lives! Or at least shes under construction. Young Mackay hes mooved intil a caravan in hes uncle Cherlies dutch barn til be on y job all y time an big Rhoda is tendin till all hes needs, cookin, washin an weldin an all that.

She is goin til be a fair Beastie wi a capital "B". He has nearly all y bitties gethired tilgethir an y massive power plant is sittin in y middle o y floor o y dutch barn on pallets till give y exact ground clearance wi all y bits laid roond aboot in their approxymit posishuns an he's goin til build them in as he goes along. Its a wee tippie he says he learnt whilst buildin a flat pack chest o drawers for he's mother sent up on y bus from MFI in Elgin (They hedna y mahogany in Inverness) an theres at least a couple o miles o Dexion ready for y job.

There hes been a fair run on Dexion here in y County ever since yer honorary members grand article on Impie vans an the price hes fair rocketed. Young MacKay seems til hev cornered y market in it an he reckons its worth more per ton than either hay or neeps. A sound investment if he could only get yon nuts an bolties til jine them tilgethir.

But he's still got her shrouded under a tarpaulin o secrecy. Her engine is covered in one an lashed wi ropes an Cherlies Collie doug Jess, a nasty bitch, is sleepin on y very top next til a hugh baseen o tripe an bones supplied by y generous sponsor, on guard as it were. She'll no move far at all so details o y power plant is sketchy. It came up y road in a Cormacks cattle float that was doon at a sale in Dingwall so it seems it came from that area but MacKay hes given y driver £20 an a 40 ounce til keep hes mooth shut. We'll maybe get a clue when y bottle's empty. But rumour hes it that theres two engines in it an the driver stopped in Tain on the way home which gives a clue as hes bit o stuff stays in Munlochy an ye can see quite plain y coo's sharn on y bottoms o y pallets.

Ever since he read an article aboot Birmingham's most famous loon winnin y Grand Prix wi y semi-automatic Ferrari in an Autosport last year in y waitin room o Mina Duff's Aroma Therapy an Massage establishment whilst bein treated for a staved thumb he was aye on aboot convertin y late lamented Marina; an so, on Rhoda's kitchen table sits a quite good Wilson self-change gearbox. Destined for Swift, she's oot o a an ex-Rapsons (!) Daimler Fleetline double decker bus bought offo some failed new age travellers who hed moved til y Rabbit Islands in Tongue Bay only til realise there are no roads on them. He's lookin for a suitable propshaft which he needs urgently as y wheelbase'll depend on length o y prop. Y layoot o her wheels an steerin's another problem y Swift teams been dooin a lot o serious development on. It hes involved towin a Reliant Robin backwards wi wir Impie van at speed til test y narrow track rear wheel steerin layoot as used by Richard Noble on Thrust II but she couped an wrote off y unfortunate 3 wheeler against a strainer turnin oot onto y road at an estimated 12 mph. Theres still much til be done!!!

Best Regards

Gunn

Me and My Car

Car : 1973 MG B-GT V8

Owned by : Chris Silver, Rosemarkie.

How long : since March 2017; it replaced a 4-cylinder GT which I owned from 1996 to 2015. I also had a GT and a roadster in the 1970s/80s.

Engine : the well-known Buick-derived V8; 3528cc; 137 bhp; twin SUs (originally); 4-speed box with overdrive (originally).

Modifications : Weber carburettor with K & N filter; Lumenition electronic ignition; tubular manifolds & stainless-steel exhaust; 5-speed "Vitesse (Mazda)" gear-box; coil-over front suspension with anti-tramp bars at the rear; 15" wheels.

History : a genuine factory V8, one of 2,591 made between 1973 and 1976 – all GTs with a proportion of rubber-bumper cars from late 1974. This car was built in May 1973 but not registered until October in Galashiels (so the current Brighton registration is not original). Left the factory painted Teal Blue with Ochre interior but apparently altered to Brooklands Green (not BRG!) with Magnolia interior when the car was restored in 1999.

At launch, the price was £2,294 which did not compare favourably with the Ford Capri 3-litre (£1,824 in GXL trim) which was seen as more modern but lacked a hatch-back to start with. When introduced, the V8 MG was a bit old-fashioned but still quite an attractive proposition particularly as a long-distance tourer when as much as 30 mpg could be achieved.

The fuel crisis of 1973 was a most unfortunate time to introduce such a car, however. Sales were never as strong as hoped and the 1974 introduction of the Mark 2 Capri with a hatchback finally nailed down the MG's coffin lid. Production steadily decreased until the V8 was pulled in 1976.

While a very small number of left-hand drive cars were made, it was never really BL's intention to export the V8 even to the USA where it might have gone down well. But BL in 1974 were concentrating on making the 4-cylinder car compatible with the US market rules and it was felt that the V8 would simply detract sales from the smaller-engined car. Finally, if a V8 sports car was required in the USA, it should be the TR7/8 not the elderly MG.

Why do I like it? : all the usual V8 attributes as well as being one of the best-looking cars of its time!

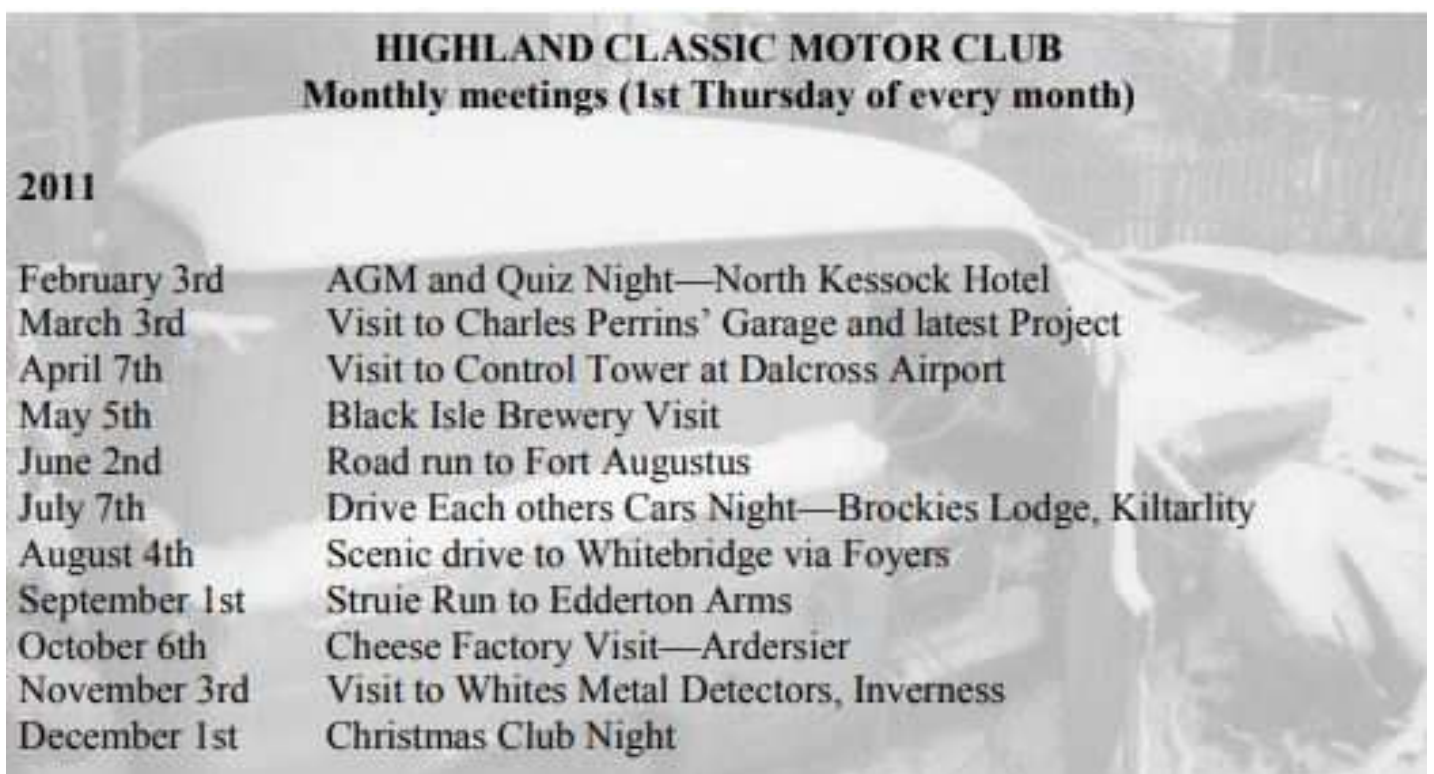


2018 Bo'ness Hillclimb. Photo Courtesy of John MacKenzie

LOCAL EVENTS

7th Feb 2019	Club AGM	Old North Inn, Inchmore	Meet 19.30 for a short AGM followed by a social opportunity.
10th Feb 2019	Cars and Coffee	Rollerbowl - Inverness	Every 2nd Sunday. Grab a coffee. Talk about cars.
7th Mar 2019	Quiz Night	Old North Inn, Inchmore	Mark's amazing quiz night. It's a biggie so get swotting.
28th Apr 2019	Drive It Day 2019	Rollerbowl - Inverness	Start from Rollerbowl - Inverness - for a scenic drive finishing for late lunch
5th May	Forres Theme Day	Forres	Further details TBA

And in 2011 we were doing this...



HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB Monthly meetings (1st Thursday of every month)	
2011	
February 3rd	AGM and Quiz Night—North Kessock Hotel
March 3rd	Visit to Charles Perrins' Garage and latest Project
April 7th	Visit to Control Tower at Dalcross Airport
May 5th	Black Isle Brewery Visit
June 2nd	Road run to Fort Augustus
July 7th	Drive Each others Cars Night—Brockies Lodge, Kiltarlity
August 4th	Scenic drive to Whitebridge via Foyers
September 1st	Struie Run to Edderton Arms
October 6th	Cheese Factory Visit—Ardersier
November 3rd	Visit to Whites Metal Detectors, Inverness
December 1st	Christmas Club Night