

CLASSIC SCENE



February 2025



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The club has an extensive archive of
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Cover Picture

Guess what I bought at the auction?
An old road map from 1966 showing
the route of the A9 and the A96 in
blue. It doesn't show great detail but
it is interesting seeing the old routes.

The image is a photoshopped amal-
gamation of two maps which don't
join perfectly but it shows the bit I'm
interested in.

Welcome to the February Newsletter

That cold spell was lovely wasn't it? Nature gave us snow, engineers gave us hand-brakes and the nanny state gave us electric hand brakes. I was practicing my (very) hidden rally driver skills on the back road turn-off near my house. It's a nice wide spot with room for error which was just as well. My current jalopy, the Mundane-O has an excellent handbrake, but terrible summer tyres with no grip in the white stuff. My first attempt at a handbrake turn saw me slide past the turn-off rather dramatically and then when trying to apply forward motion, I stalled. The next evening I undercompensated and only got about a 45 degree turn in, so nothing to challenge the champion rally drivers out there. By the third night I was getting better, settling on 15mph as an optimum entry speed but you really need some winter tyres to make some forward progress. My old Mk4 Golf had them and you could nail a winter handbrake turn nearly every time. I miss that car. Unfortunately it was missing a sill on one side so that was that.

The downside of the weather of course was trying to do some spannering in the garage. Even with a wee heater, bare skin threatened to stick to bare metal, and any knuckle crushing slips were of course extra painful. Fortunately global warming solved this. Once the weather flipped to fifteen degrees, I was able to find a moment to carry on stripping the good bits out of my rusty, bent, scrap Mk1 Ford Focus. Another couple of days work should see that off to the scrappy. I'm looking for three Ford fit, four stud wheels someone else wants to scrap so I can roll it onto the scrappy trailer. I've been offered some already but they seem too good, as they are better than the ones I want to keep. However it may come to it.

Contrary to my opening paragraph, these days I do try hard to drive legally and am constantly trying to improve that. I find it less stressful and you don't have to worry about cameras or traffic cops, plus it's just safer, socially responsible and it doesn't really affect your journey time. Plus I'm getting old. Plus passengers like it better.

I have a pet peeve though. I believe that speed limits begin at the speed limit sign so I aim to slow down to hit the 50 at 50, however this drives some other drivers demented, provoking beeping and tail gating and flashing of head-lights as they zoom up behind at 80. (P.S. There's no point - you're so close I can't see your headlights, only a subtle halo.) (P.P.S Can't you see the massive 50 sign?) This mainly happens at the current A9 roadworks heading north at the Munloch junction, but at other places too. Is there a sub-clause in the Highway Code that speed limits at road works are optional? Is it coincidental that there are regular collisions on that bit of the A9 just now? Sometimes two a day? No, they're not all caused by me, but I've seen a lot in my rear view mirror.

There's an onus on us to drive legally and respectfully on our Classic Car jaunts so I'm not being all virtuous, (see paragraph one,) and this is relevant to the HCMC world.

Drive safe, and if you can't drive safe, don't get caught.

Your Editor

Ramblings from the Chair



Not a huge amount to report on the classic scene this month – far too cold to be lying on the garage floor (min -11.3°C in Beaulieu) and having family home for Christmas, there's been a good excuse. I will however concur with our Editor's tale from last month's newsletter regarding life with modern vehicles. I recently purchased a 3 year Hybrid (oh, the SHAME, the SHAME, I know) as my everyday runabout and was (and maybe still am) driven demented with the warning bells, hooters and bongs which accompany every drive. Like our Editor, I too have experienced the steering shake of the 'Lane Assist', the 'Take a Rest' message when looking at the view and the Collision Warning when a vehicle in front is slowing to turn off into a slip lane but hasn't quite fully cleared the current lane. I have also had 'The vehicle in front is moving off' when in a traffic queue, 'Keep hands on the steering wheel' message when my grip has been too slack and the very alarming (and pretty violent) steering shake accompanied by loud buzzing if I dare to indicate I'm moving out to overtake something in front before an vehicle overtaking me has fully cleared my bonnet. BUT, the one thing that confused me for some considerable time was the occasional bonging of the seatbelt warning for no apparent reason. I eventually discovered that this occurred when travelling with the two 'beloved' poodles on the back seat and when the road surface was not great (which is about 80% of the roads in general!). It appears that the rear seats are fitted with sensors – but not sensitive enough for one dog to set them off. However, two dogs sitting on one seat together are just sufficient to set the alarm off intermittently. The warning lights in the front are situated up behind the rear view – not particularly obvious in the first instance. The solution is to have the rear seatbelts fastened at all times. AND another problem travelling with dogs is that the internal movement antitheft alarm sensors in the car cannot be permanently disarmed. So, every time the dogs are to be left in the locked car, I have to go into the settings menu, select vehicle, select convenience and untick the advanced antitheft feature – all of this with the ignition turned on (when normally I have just parked and turned the ignition off!). Finally, there have been recent occasions when the windscreen has been iced up, is that I get an orange light on the dash telling me that the safety systems are inactive – fortunately this is simply because the front facing cameras are obscured and being housed in the 'pod' behind the rear view mirror, they take much longer to defrost than the windscreen in general. However, one does get used to all these foibles and I guess that these systems will do a lot to prevent accidents and unwanted damage.

I do admit to liking the Hybrid drivetrain – the burst of acceleration at more or less any speed is very satisfying, but like our Editor, I find the fuel consumption is perhaps not as impressive as claimed. It is very good on local trips, maybe over 50mpg, with a mix of driving on A and B roads with a bit of town work but on faster trips, say to Glasgow and beyond, at motorway speeds, the consumption drops to maybe 45mpg. My belief is that the engine is running for a higher percentage of the time at higher speeds and the car doesn't get the advantage of running in Electric Vehicle mode for so long. But I can't really complain too much in comparison with classic cars of say the 70's and 80's when getting 30mpg was considered reasonable.

Richard.

Our February meeting is the AGM followed by a Classic Car Quiz which, this year is being prepared by Andrew Card (the owner of the 1932 Austin 10 van and an early 50's Bedford lorry, a K Type I believe). So please come along to the Craigmonie Hotel on the 6th with your thinking caps on (and with any ideas for our monthly meetings in 2025). Hope to see you all, there.



This year's date - Sunday 27 April 2025 - is later than usual to avoid a clash with Easter.

Here is some blurb from the FBHVC, and you'll find more on their website:

Drive It Day 2025. Yesterday's Vehicles Supporting Today's Children. National Drive It Day was created by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs in 2005. It is the occasion when historic vehicle enthusiasts and the public at large have the opportunity to celebrate the One Thousand Mile Trial organised in 1900 to prove the viability of the new invention, the motor vehicle. It's also a chance to raise awareness and support amongst the public for the historic vehicle movement and keeping transport heritage on UK roads, while fund-raising for charity. Please see the website for how to support the event and buy a fundraising 'rally plaque' www.driveitday.co.uk

Robert Mackintosh

We are sad to report the passing of Robert MacIntosh, who though not a club member was a well kent face at Cars and Coffee and other events.



He was a brilliant mechanic and was involved in classic motor sport. Our thoughts are with his friends and family.

HCMC Auction Night

9th January 2025



This year the auction was held at the Craigmonie Hotel on Annfield Road, our new de facto venue thanks to a connection with our Chairman. And it's a fine venue, with plenty of parking and friendly staff who make us welcome and best of all there appears to be no rush for us to leave.

The usual sort of assortment of goods arrived to go under the hammer with yours truly acting as stand in Auctioneer with Bryan reprising his role at will.

Graeme Bremner was the self titled 'glamorous assistant' or chief book keeper. The books were audited by Richard Lashley for accuracy, and didn't they do well?

Personally I think recording the sales is the hardest job. Though actually turning the event into an actual auction was tricky, as not to excuse my lack of skills, there just aren't enough people to spark many bidding wars and it tends to turn into a £1 give away. We did manage half a dozen or so rallies though which were quite enjoyable. We used the 'auctioneer' and 'spotter' technique so we were sure to catch those bids as they came flying in. Did anyone spot that?



Books and particularly magazines didn't really shift that well but tools and car parts did OK, which just shows we are a team of doers rather than thinkers. Possibly.

We did get a few laughs in along the way, with the tat for sale being the butt of the jokes, plus some friendly abuse for good measure. I personally missed some of the belly laughs from the golden years of Bryan with Tom's legendary one liners, but it was still fun.

The last item to be auctioned off was a lovely little presentation hamper of Inverness Honey donated by Andrew Card. The winnings for this were split 50:50 to club funds and our favourite Cash for Kids charity. There was an actual round of applause at the end of this spirited bidding.

At the end of the day we raised £56.50 for club funds with many members rounding up their dues or forfeiting some of their winnings. I forgot you could do this as I was one of the first to be paid out. And anyway, £10 was a nice round number.



Oh and I arrived with 3 boxes and left with one, with better tools in it. Result!

Calum / Editor / Stand-in Auctioneer



Be at the "LE MANS CLASSIC 2025"

This Year, the "Le Mans Classic" is being held at the Circuit de la Sarthe in Le Mans, France from 3rd - 6th July 2025, it is a biannual event.

Do you fancy an Adventure? One of our CARS AND COFFEE - INVERNESS regulars, Kevin Davidson is heading down for the weekend and has space in his vehicle for up to 4 people to join him. Here is his plan:-

"I am intending to travel from Inverness on Thursday 3rd July and take an overnight ferry from Newcastle to Amsterdam, then down to Le Mans on Friday 4th. I will then leave Le Mans on Monday 7th July to catch an overnight ferry back to Newcastle and drive home to Inverness on Tuesday 8th July.

My plan is take my camper van which means I could accommodate 2/3/4 passengers. I will stay in a hotel in Le Mans and travel each day to the circuit as camping at the circuit is not the best experience.

I don't have fixed ideas re hotels but expect costs of £100 per night per person
My camper returns 35 mpg so shared fuel costs won't be excessive.

Ferry depends on when booked and again £100 per person would cover it and that includes a berth, saving a hotel cost in each direction .

I have been 3 times previously, it is a great event.

If interested, please contact me at kdavidsonbrodie@yahoo.co.uk

Be swift as both the ferry and hotels book out quickly."

Email Kevin now if interested!



Cars and Coffee

What a cool way to kick off 2025!!

It may have been chilly but that didn't stop the car park slowly filling up with some lovely motors. It was great to catch up with everyone. We can't wait for next Month! If anyone wants the 3 Vitesse wire wheels in the last photo then give us a shout and we'll put you in touch with the owner who's moving from Inverness soon and just needs them gone. Be quick and save them from the tip!



Some came in something suitable for the wintry weather.



Some were looking for sliding rear wheel wheel fun.



And some prefer the sure footedness of front wheel drive.



And some just wanted to show off their fresh MOT certificate after a bit of a marathon repair session. A Mini marathon?

If you prefer three wheels on your wagon, be Triumph-ant as here are some wire wheels looking for a new home.



Fleeting Moments

Trish Brown

The weather was against us on auction night and we did not even get out of the driveway. The drive was icy enough to make walking interesting, never mind getting the Merc out. And the Landie decided it wasn't going to start. This eventually was traced to a duff battery.

When the weather eventually turned nicer, our usual road out of the village had a large puddle across it. In itself not a big deal if you take it easy enough, but when a 4x4 coming towards us had the water nearly up to the bottom of its doors, we thought better of it and took a very large detour to get to the shops for our weekly messages.

The weather is also taking its toll on the roads in our area. To get to the A9 there is now a stretch of around 200 yards, which is single track due to a number of potholes decorated with traffic cones. With the recent storm most of them got blown away. As we know where the potholes are, we drive that stretch whilst straddling the centre line. It is not the only pinch point in our area. There is also a bridge over a dinky little burn. The bridge is right on a corner so you can't see if anyone is coming. One of the parapets is already missing a fair chunk out of it (it has been this way for at least 4 years) and this should tell you something, but most folk don't seem to care the way they speed across it.

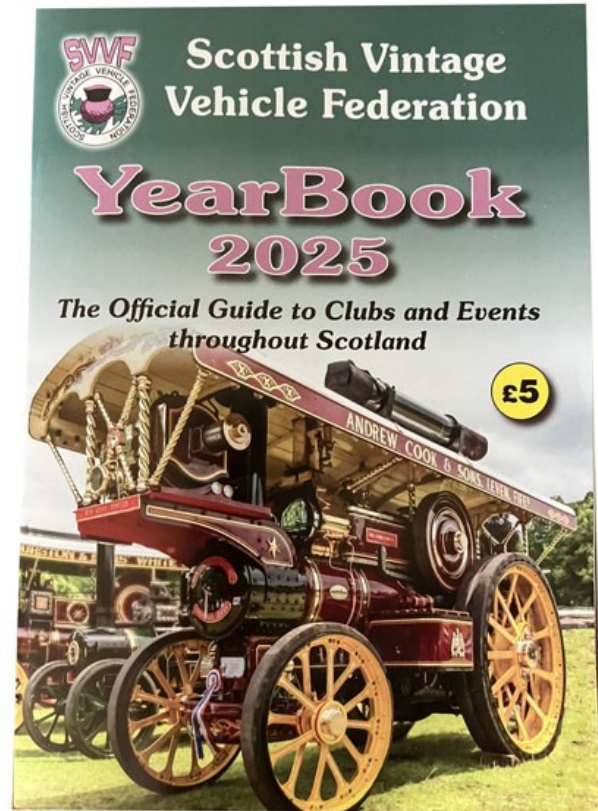
Shows and Events 2025

The SVVF yearbook is out listing most of the Scottish Classic Car events. Your committee elves have been working on filling in the blanks.

If you think we've missed any out please let us know so we can update the website, which as you know is the best place to look for up to date information.

Now's the time to put all those shows into your diary.

We hope to see you out there.



- 2025-04-13 The Highlander Track 'n' Show North of Scotland Kart Club, Golspie.
- 2025-04-27 Drive It Day. Details TBA.
- 2025-05-5 Forres Theme Day.
- 2025-05-17 Inverness Classic Vehicle Show.
- 2025-05-18 Inverness Performance Car Show, Dores.
- 2025-05-25 Highland Folk Museum Vintage Day, Newtonmore
- 2025-05-31 Ardersier Gala Classic Car Show and Parade
- 2025-06-7 Inverness Rotary Club Loch Ness Classic Car Tour
- 2025-06-8 Elgin Rotary, Motorfun.
- 2025-06-21 Wings & Wheels Easter Airfield, Balintore
- 2025-06-22 Tain Gala Association Vintage Car Rally.
- 2025-07-12 Scottish Transport Extravaganza Weekend Glamis Castle
- 2025-08-08 DubNess - The Gathering of the Vans
- 2025-08-10 Historic Wheels Club Annual Rally Brodie Castle Morayshire
- 2025-08-23 TruckNess 2025 Black Isle Show Ground
- 2025-08-30 Fortrose & Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Rally.
- 2025-09-06 Dingwall Rotary Vehicle Show 2025 Cromartie Park
- 2025-09-20 Wheels of Nairn Nairn Links

HCMC Events

6th Feb 2025 HCMC AGM Venue - TBC. The HCMC February Meeting includes the Club AGM. Show your support for the Committee, enjoy a review of 2024 then join in with the planning of Monthly Meetings and Events for 2025.

9th Feb 2025 Cars And Coffee - Inverness Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness. 2nd Sunday of every Month from 10am-12noon. A Quiet Social Gathering of 20th Century Classics plus interesting Modern Sportscars & Bikes.