

CLASSIC SCENE



February 2026



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meeting. Please send articles by post
or email to addresses above.

Archivist

The club has an extensive archive of
information

relating to all aspects of classic car
ownership. To access this please
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Cover Picture

This is Josephine, the oldest car in
the 'Anniversary Monte 100
Classique.' It is being driven by
James Mann, and his grandfather
drove the same car in previous
Monte Carlo Rallies.

Welcome to the February Newsletter

There's something different about this Newsletter. Due to the steady, inevitable change of computer software, Microsoft Publisher is being retired, and I have had to spend a bit of time looking for new desktop publishing software. I have settled on a programme called Scribus which has a General Public License so is free. It comes from the Linux world, well, actually GNU which is Not Linux. I liked the click, poke and drag ethos of the Microsoft product and Scribus is a lot more logical and regimented, to my mind at least. It's a challenging change.

You might be wondering why the Newsletter isn't just written in Word or some similar Document Editor, and I guess with a bit of effort it could be, but it's down to layout and compartmentalising all the sections. There's nothing worse than editing page one and not noticing page twenty four has gone out of whack.

This edition may have less content than normal until I get the hang of the new way of doing things. Who knows, there may be fewer mistakes as I seem to be able to actually read what I'm writing more easily now.

My part time working regime has allowed more time in the garage but I am still a month or so behind where I would like to be. I've been welding up the Panda and there was a red letter day when I drove it out of the garage and turned it around to work on the other side. I thought the drivers side was the better side, but it's just rusty, just in slightly different places. I also fabricated a rally style sump guard as the original had rusted away to almost nothing. I'm quite pleased with it and being fairly robust, it will help with all the dodgy off-roading I've got planned. I'm quite disappointed to have missed the snowy weather this winter as driving the Panda in the snow last year was the best fun I have had driving in ages.

You will find a copy of the draft minutes from the AGM last year, further on in this news letter. This serves two purposes. To remind ourselves of what we discussed, and for members to read them, ready to approve them as an accurate representation at the next AGM on Thursday the 5th of February.

I was stuck for a cover picture for this newsletter and so on the morning of the publishing deadline, I popped down to the Columba hotel in Inverness to watch the first cars come through this checkpoint on the Anniversary Monte 100 Classique rally. It was quite an event and there were a lot of familiar faces milling about. We seem to have photographic agents placed at strategic points along the first leg, so I expect there will be more on this in the next newsletter. Yet again, we are well placed in Inverness for events like this, as we are a bit of a navigational bottleneck.

See you out there,

Your Editor.

Ramblings from the Chair



Well another month has gone by with still nothing to report from the garage. Mrs Chair's Golf is due an oil change and a service but it is way too cold and wet to be lying under cars. I suppose I could get the Senator out of the garage and use the space for the Golf but, hey, those modern synthetic oils do last a long time so I'm sure a few extra overdue miles won't really matter – perhaps I'll just wait for some milder temperatures. So, if I can't talk about classic motors, I'll have to mention the other word in our Clubs title – yes Highland. Early in the New Year, when the family was home, we decided to brave the snowy roads and make a visit to the newly opened Inverness Castle. We had seen how lovely it looked at night from the outside with all the windows and parapets gently lit in a yellowy tone and we were not disappointed with the internal exhibition which really does showcase The Highlands in all its glory. I am very pleased to report there is not a fluffy Nessie in a tartan Tammy anywhere to be seen! Quite the contrary, the exhibition is set over a number of rooms (all beautifully warm) and each is themed to a separate Highland feature, whether it be history, stone, sky, wildlife,



natural landscapes or the people, past and present. A running feature throughout is the old Rose Window from the, now demolished, Methodist Church which sat at the top of Academy Street – as portrayed in the photo left (and look, there is a Vauxhall Cresta, a Cortina mk2 and a two tone Morris Oxford). The actual window was saved,

restored, and has now been installed in one of the exhibition rooms with the glass being backlit with moving lights and the stonework at the front illuminated by dancing spotlights to music – really quite stunning. There are two external viewing platforms, each on a turret, where the views over Inverness and beyond are spectacular. We were engulfed by a heavy snow shower when we were there, all adding to the mysticism of our visit. It is surprising just how high the castle sits above the City. One room does have a tartan theme where you can design your own tartan on a screen, using a great many different colours and stripe thicknesses, all of which can be saved with an image of a completed garment of

choice in your own tartan. After a small refreshment at the 'Bistro' (with a circular room off displaying whiskies) which is a new build part of the complex, we made our way to the North Tower where on the first floor there is a display of Runrig memorabilia, as arguably the first successful Highland popular bands and on the second floor, a display of over fifty tapestries, stitched by small communities throughout the Highlands, each showcasing their own take on their local area. The whole exhibition has a series of 'listening' points, activated by a touch from your own personal handset, issued upon entry (which can be set to a large number of different languages), all of which allows for a leisurely visit. We were there for almost three hours and all of us came away with the thought of what a great addition it is to Inverness and the Highlands. Makes you proud to be Highlander (ok, only an adopted one in my case!).

Next month it is our AGM and following the 'boring' stuff it is the intention to have a general natter among ourselves. In this respect, I am hoping to get a selection of photographs from members showing cars from the past that they (or their family) owned with the intention of 1. it being a bit of a slide show and 2. getting some stories going of what we did in our youth. I can scan photos or slides so that we can show them on a TV screen (or maybe with a slide projector if appropriate) so would appreciate if you could send some items to me (even electronically) for inclusion. I already have some albums from one member which I am looking through but it would be ideal to have a good varied selection. My phone no. and email address is given on the first page of this newsletter if you would like to get in touch. Many thanks.

Regards, Richard

Fleeting Moments

And here I hoped we would make it to the auction. We've been collecting a few things over the past year, but the weather had other ideas. As you know, the snow started the week before auction night. We cleared snow on Friday. And Saturday And Sunday, but it was Monday before we were able to get out the drive and with some difficulty out onto the main road. Then on Tuesday, we wake up to a little more snow and during the day a little drizzle. Wednesday saw the drive covered with a sheet of ice. Well actually, most around the house was icy with the gutters frozen with any snow melt in the sun resulting in water dripping all over the place and turning to ice as it hits the ground. Some very impressive icicles hanging from guttering in our street.

It was the Saturday after auction night before we managed to chip enough ice off the drive to get a car out. The street was marginally better only because a small gritter had been down it on Tuesday (first gritter since the snow started), spreading enough salt to keep the street relatively clear. And being a gritter, the ploughing dumped a pile of snow across our drive. Then another gritter managed to do the same at either end of our street. Through the combined effort of us neighbours we managed to shovel these snow banks out of the way on the icy Wednesday.

It was only earlier this week that the last of the snow melted from the corners of our drive. Halfway down the top road there is still a meter high bank of snow, although you can now slowly see it getting smaller.

It would have been useful to have our Landie at these times as by a large the only vehicles moving were 4x4's, but it is still languishing up the road.

Trish Brown

Auction Night



It was a cold, icy night for this years auction so attendance was less than usual, I think thirteen heads in all, however there were still some good items to bid on.

I scoured my garage for things to bring amongst which were some quite old but possibly useable tyres. They're stored indoors so the UV light doesn't get them. Anyway no bids, So I'll need to find a new home for them.

There were some slopy shoulders on behalf of your editor as I escaped auctioneer duties. It was only 50:50 if I was going to get time off work that evening, and we needed someone in place. That's my excuse anyway. I did arrange some auction numbers to help the bidding process go smoothly but when asked to be the auction accountant there was an instant increase in my shoulder angle. I did it one year, and by the time I had worked out the spreadsheet the auction was nearly over. It's just not in my skill set. Fortunately we had a minion (I mean glamorous assistant) who was volunteered and did terribly well. Miles took over the reigns as chief auctioneer and did really well. Afterwards after the pressure was off he confessed, the hardest thing is setting the starting price - somewhere higher than the threshold to insult the seller and low enough to get bids in. He must have struck a good balance as there were several bidding wars.

As always there was some good banter and even the legendary Skoda water pump got a mention. For newer members the auction rules used to be that all the unsold items went into a pile until an item was sold, which was comical in the dismay of faces who finally won the cherished item they'd been after, and a pile of junk. A skoda water pump reappeared every year until eventually it was launched off the Kessock Bridge on the way home. Names have been withheld. as the maritime investigation is still ongoing and I'm not a grass.

Thanks must go to the Corriegarth Hotel for putting up with our nonsense, and providing lovely clean table linen to protect their brand new tables. Fortunately there were no heavy items and I think we got away with it.

Minutes of the 2025 AGM

6 February 2025 at the Craigmonie Hotel, 7.30pm

Members present: Andrew Card, Trish Brown, Alice Brown, Richard Lashley, Ian McNeill, Bryan McIlwraith, Miles Vincent, Tom McCallum, Chris Silver, John Mackenzie, Callum Beveridge, Steve Hanson, Ian Thomson, Roy MacGregor, Ranald Smith, Mark Wilson, Michael Fraser.

Apologies: Calum Pearson, John Eastwood, Ian Beaton, Stevie Doherty, Graeme Bremner, Graham Jamieson

Minutes of the last AGM were accepted as accurate. Proposed: Richard Lashley. Seconded: Chris Silver

Chairman's report. Richard welcomed everyone at the meeting. He briefly recapped the activities of the past year and observed that the club continues to offer its members an interesting mix of meets, runs and visits, most of which were well attended. He welcomes any constructive criticisms or new ideas for development.

Treasurer's report. Ian confirmed that overall there has been a slight increase in club funds this year, with major expenses this year being the FBHVC Insurance, Drive-It day expenses and the donation to Maggie's Cancer Care Centre. At the end of December 2024, the club had nearly £3000 in the bank. Trish was able to confirm that she had inspected the accounts for 2024 and these were found to be in order.

(Members) Secretary's report. Paid membership is up from last year to 100 members. There are a few late payers, mainly those who pay cash. Reminders have gone out to these members.

Election of office bearers:

Chair: Richard Lashley indicated he was happy to continue in this post. This was unanimously accepted by the present members.

Secretary: Trish Brown indicated she was happy to continue in this post. This was unanimously accepted by the present members.

Members secretary: Miles Vincent indicated he was happy to continue in this post. This was unanimously accepted by the present members.

Treasurer: Ian Thomson indicated he was happy to continue in this post. This was unanimously accepted by the present members.

Webmaster: Callum Beveridge indicated at last year's AGM (2024) that he would like to step down in 2025. Although this is still Callum's wish, he agreed to remain as webmaster, but give up his seat on the committee. This was

unanimously accepted by the present members.

Editor: Calum Pearson, via an email to the Chair, thanked all the members who have made his job easier in the past year by the submission of good quality articles. He was willing to continue in the post as long as the membership continued to do their bit by contributing regular articles and submitting them in good time before the due date. This was unanimously accepted by the present members.

To make it easier for members to submit articles in a format that most supports our Editor, Callum Beveridge indicated that he will post guidance on the HCMC website.

Ordinary committee members: Ranald indicated that he was keen to step down from the committee in favour of new/younger members. Steve Hanson was nominated (accepted by Steve) and Andrew Card and Mark Wilson both put their name forward. The following members were unanimously accepted by present members: Roy MacGregor, Bryan McIlwraith, Graeme Bremner, Steve Hanson, Andrew Card and Mark Wilson.

AOCB

Miles reported on the presents (2 van loads) and monies (nearly £800) gathered by the club and at Cars & Coffee for MFR Cash for Kids.

Agreed that the club will fund refreshments for this year's Drive It Day. Noted that the intended end point of Ord Arms Hotel may have been "claimed" already by the MG club. And concerns were raised about available parking. Miles and Calum will reconsider the route.

Agreed that the committee will meet shortly to firm up this years calendar of meetings.

The following was agreed at the meeting

March - visit to Ross's Garage, Nairn. Convoy to leave from Inverness Retail Park 7.00pm.

April - Talk by Prof. Basham about his career with the British Geological Survey (John MacKenzie)

May - run including visit to a small Hydro Electricity station (Richard)

Some other suggestions are as follows:-

Visit to Jim McColl (Brahan) to look at Argo's and his Land Rover restoration. (Richard)

Visit to the BBC. There may be a restriction in numbers (Calum)

The AGM closed at 8.10pm.

Another Cars and Coffee at Carlton Bingo



I'm not sure who brought the Porsche 944, but thank you. These were quite a thing back in their day, and I'm sure it's still impressive now. A work colleague had one and his passengers attested to its performance with a quiver in their voice. His was a 5.0 V8. I'm not sure which one this is but it looked very smart. This venerable split screen Mini is a daily driver and didn't seem to mind the salty road conditions. It's got some build in anti-corrosion technology as you can see. Fortunately it wasn't too bad and it washed away in the rain.



The turnout was limited but at the same time impressive for a cold winter's day with salt on the roads. A lot of people made the most of the indoor catering to get their chat in. Inside, I tried to find the owner of this remarkable purple Fiesta. It turned out it was Imperial Blue like two of my own Fords at home. I went Imperial Red. Still I made some kind of impression and got shown the engine and learned a bit of its history. This was definitely my car of the day.





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Local Rallies in 2026

The dates for the 2026 events are coming in and being added to the club website. Here's a list of what's planned and announced so far. As always double check with the website in case of any changes or mistakes, but hopefully you can now plan your summer holiday without missing out on the important things in life.

12/4/2026 The Highlander Track 'n' Show, North of Scotland Kart Club, Littleferry, Golspie

26/4/2026 'Drive It Day' 2026. DestinationTBC

2/5/2026 Highland Historic Commercial Vehicle Run. Dingwall Mart to Newtonmore

3/5/2026 Forres Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Show. Grant Park, Forres

16/5/2026 BID Inverness Classic Vehicle Show. Inverness City Centre

24/5/2026 Highland Folk Museum Vintage Day. Newtonmore

7/6/2026 Fraserburgh Vintage Car Rally. Fraserburgh Leisure Centre

21/6/2026 Tain Vintage Vehicle Rally. The Links, Tain

11/7/2026 Scottish Transport Extravaganza Weekend. Glamis Castle

9/8/2026 Historic Wheels Club Annual Rally. Brodie Castle Morayshire

22/8/2026 TruckNess 2026. Black Isle Show Ground

23/8/2026 Helmsdale Vintage & Classic Vehicle Rally. Couper Park (A9) Helmsdale KW8 6HH

29/8/2026 Fortrose & Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Rally. Dingwall Mart -> King George V Sports Field, Fortrose

30/8/2026 Buckie Classic Car Show. Linzee Gordon Park, Buckie, UK

5/9/2026 Dingwall Rotary Vehicle Show 2026. Cromartie Park

HCMC Events

5th Feb 2026 HCMC AGM Craigmonie Hotel, 9 Annfield Road, Inverness IV2 3HX 7.00pm for 7.30pm AGM start. Join in with organising of your beloved club, maybe volunteer for a committee position like the newsletter editor or mould the future of the HCMC.

8th Feb 2026 Cars And Coffee - Inverness Carlton Bingo, Inverness IV2 3ED 2nd Sunday of every Month from 10am-12noon. A Quiet Social Gathering of 20th Century Classics plus interesting Modern Sportscars & Bikes. Park up, buy yourself a hot drink & snack from Carlton Bingo & check out what's in the Car Park. Find us on FACEBOOK.

5th Mar 2026 HCMC Visit to The Oxygen Works The Oxygen Works, Burnett Road, IV1 1TF Inverness. 7.30pm for a talk on their Hyperbaric Chamber and other facilities. Follow the signs on Burnett Road all the way to the right hand end.

2nd Apr 2026 HCMC Visit to Luxury Auto House Luxury Auto House, 2169 Cromwell Rd. Inverness IV1 1SY, along from the Inverness Harbour entrance. An interesting night with experts in detailing, upholstery, coilovers, air ride, wheels, audio, media screens, dashcams, trackers & immobilizers. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start