

CLASSIC SCENE



March 2024

WELCOME TO THE PC CLUB

Where the classic community really pulls together

practical
CLASSIC CAR
& RESTORATION SHOW
22-24 MARCH 2024 • With discovery+



'It's a real eye-catcher!'

1989 Ford Sierra XR4i4 Calum Pearson, Inverness

I owned one of these a while ago, but sold it when I bought a house... and then instantly regretted it. That is where this one came from! It has been repainted by a brilliant local guy who came highly recommended. He has done an amazing job, and the car really does look sensational now. It also needed a little welding here and there, but all that's been sorted and I can enjoy it just as Ford intended. It had a Sierra Cosworth bonnet when I bought the car, but I replaced that with the original item and it's now back to how it should be. It's an eye-catcher, that's for sure. And it's great to drive, too. A very useable classic all round.



Calum won't be letting this one go any time soon!



PAY
LESS AND
NEVER MISS
A COPY!

See p52.

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email to addresses above.

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The club has an extensive archive of
information relating to all aspects of
classic car ownership. To access this
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Cover Picture

We're in the Practical Classics club.
The current (dated April 24) issue is
loaded with mentions of the club,
and with more to come next month.
I can highly recommend buying the
next few issues, or why not sub-
scribe to what I believe is the most
relevant magazine out there? I do.

(Permission applied for.)

Welcome to the March Newsletter

Well wow, lots of news this month. Perhaps the newsletter will write itself? (It won't.)

I think it's fair to start with the AGM where it came as a surprise when Trish stood down as chair and Richard Lashley took over. I have really appreciated Trish as Chair, and I will miss her in the role. I'm sure you all agree that she's done great work over the years. Hip hip Hooray! For she's a jolly good chair person etc. Add your own cheers. So the Chair is dead. Long live the Chair, as Richard Lashley takes over, and has already made his mark. In ten years time we can all sing Richard's praises when he's finally allowed to step down. Trish has moved on to secretary so is still on the committee and able to share her wisdom and experience.

In other committee news Miles has agreed to take on membership secretary with the bonus of being so sociable and well known through Cars and Coffee that he should be able to round up a few new members.

Did anyone agree to take over as newsletter editor? No, but I have proposed and had accepted that I will create a pool of reporters and create a Microsoft Word template for contributions. You can volunteer to be a cub reporter by emailing me at editor@highlandclassic.org.uk but I will also be head hunting. The idea is to hand out assignments to the reporter pool at the beginning of the month. I have still to work out the finer details, and I'm super busy so you might escape for a month but watch out!

Practical Classics. HCMC and the Highlands are fully featured at the moment. The current issue 'Golf at 50' has us on the inside page, the last page and 'Your Cars' including yours truly on page 41. There are several Highland cars though not strictly HCMC members, without our club the PC meet-up wouldn't have happened, so the next time someone asks what do you get for your £15? This! And so much more. Make sure to buy next month's issue too, as there is much more to come.

In other news, your Editor's favourite Focus had a drive shaft failure, which got progressively worse. A reasonably priced replacement was found on AutoDoc, my new favourite supplier. You use an app on your phone. Good quality and good value but I think the parts come from Europe so not the quickest. A couple of hours (after delivery!) saw the new drive shaft fitted, then I set off for a test drive, or rather didn't as the engine started, faltered, then wouldn't start again. It felt like an immobiliser issue. Feeling demoralised I left it for the day finding solace in food and wine. The next day I unlocked the car and it started first time and it's been fine since. I think Microsoft could have fixed this one. It just needed all the Windows closed and a restart.

Oh, and I changed the committee contact details on the previous page so can those affected check my work and let me know if all is correct, or not?

See you out there,
your Editor.

Ramblings from the Chair



Well, hello from me, Richard, your new Chairperson. Firstly, may I thank Trish for her sterling work in this post since August 2012 (I checked the archive issues of the newsletter on the HCMC website!!) – I cannot see myself lasting for the same length of time given my advancing years but who knows! Let me give you a brief life history – I was brought up on the south side of Glasgow and moved to the Highlands some 44 years ago to work on the, then under construction, A9. I am a retired Civil Engineer and latterly worked with a small firm of Consulting Engineers in Inverness – through my work, I have travelled fairly extensively throughout the Highlands and Western Isles with occasional forays into the North East, Orkney and the Lowlands. I live about a mile from Beauly, ‘up the Braes’, in the same house for almost 40 years albeit extended on three different occasions. I do feel a little bit of a fraud, as my classic car ownership extends to just two – a 1961 Singer Gazelle IIb in two tone green, owned for about three years, and my current car, a 1984 Opel Senator 3 litre CD in pale metallic green, now in my possession for almost 20 years (and still with just 67k miles on the clock). I am definitely a ‘General Motors’ man – this is probably due to my first memories of cars being my father’s Vauxhall Victor’s (a 1963 FB and 1966 FC 101) both with front bench seats and three speed gearboxes with a column change. Following two mk2 Cortina’s (what on earth was he thinking of?), he bought a brand new 1972 Victor 2000SL, one of the very last FD models, in metallic ‘sapphire starmist’, and this was the car I learnt to drive in. A lovely car at the time (quad headlights, heated rear window and four individual bucket seats). By modern standards though, it would seem very basic, four speed gearbox, no power steering, electric windows, rev counter or even a radio.

And then I got my own set of wheels – **to be continued.....**

Last month’s meeting was the AGM and I was slightly disappointed at the numbers in attendance – just 13. Please let me remind you all that, as members, this is your Club, and as Chairperson, my ‘door will always be open’ - please contact me (or any committee member) if you have any ideas to enhance the Club or, indeed, anything which you feel is detrimental. My own opinion is that the Club strikes about the right balance in informality but, as I’m sure you will understand, regulations constantly amplify with time and I feel that some review of our constitution is necessary.

Well that’s about it for this month – unfortunately I’m away for next month’s meeting – but I hope it will be good one.

Regards, Richard



Highland Classic Motor Club.
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
1 February 2024 at the Old North Inn, 7pm

Appologies: Ian Beaton, Graeme Jamieson, Graeme Bremner, Roy MacGregor.

Members present: John Stott, Roddie Main, Michael Fraser, Ranauld Smith, Tom McCallum, Bryan McIlwraith, Trish Brown, Richard Lashley, Alice Brown, Callum Beveridge, Miles Vincent, Calum Pearson, Ian McNeill

Minutes of the last AGM were passed with a minor amendment. Proposed: Alice.
Seconded: Tom

President's report. Trish welcomed everyone at the meeting. She 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.

Treasurer's report. In the absence of the Treasurer, Trish was able to confirm that she had inspected the accounts for 2023 and these were found to be in order. At the end of December 2023, the club had £2,837.07 in the bank.

(Members) Secretary's report. Paid membership is slightly up from last year to 86. A discussion ensued following comments that some people find it difficult to join up. Agreed that the committee would look into this further with a view to improving the joining process if required.

Election of office bearers:

Chair: Richard Lashley, proposed Bryan, seconded Callum. Richard accepted the post.

Secretary: Trish Brown, proposed: Alice, seconded: Calum

Members secretary: Miles Vincent, unanimously accepted by membership.

Treasurer: Ian Thomson, unanimously accepted by membership.

Webmaster: Callum Beveridge, unanimously accepted by membership. Callum indicated that this would be his last year as webmaster. Trish suggested that he documents how the website is build/functions so that this can be passed on to a new webmaster next year.

Editor: Calum Pearson, unanimously accepted by membership. Calum Pearson indicated that he too would like to step down as Editor, but will continue with more support from the membership. He suggested an editorial team to assist him with collating articles for the magazine in order to reduce the time required to produce the actual magazine. Ranald and Miles offered their assistance.

Ordinary committee members: Roy MacGregor, Ranald Smith, Bryan McIlwraith and Graeme Bremner, unanimously accepted by the membership.

AOCB

Miles summarised the presents and monies gathered by the club and at Cars & Coffee for MFR Cash for Kids. He also mentioned the favourable publicity that the club received for its efforts.

A suggested activities for this year was an AutoJumble and a weekend run. This generated a deep discussion on what may be permitted under our public liability insurance and whether there are any obligations on the said insurance, for example risk assessments. Agreed was that the committee would look further into this. If required risk assessments will be published under the Committee Documents.

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

Agreed that the club will fund refreshments for this year's Drive It Day.

March meeting will be a quiz (Trish). The venue for the meeting will be confirmed in the March magazine.

The AGM closed at 8.55pm.

The Back of the Chair

Although the numbers attending was rather low in my opinion, we still had some intense discussions about club matters at the AGM. There has been a change in the committee too. Richard was proposed as the new chair and he accepted the post. With that my time as chair came to an end, but I am continuing as secretary for a few more years. I'll not do a big speech, but I would like to say a big thank you to the various editors of our magazine who have all done and are doing a sterling job of creating an interesting magazine. But really, all committee members over the past years have put a lot of effort into organising meets – and some of our members have too. Thank you all, I am proud to have been your chair. Over to you now, Richard.



But that does not mean that my ramblings will come to an end. I may not contribute every month, but I am intending to keep you entertained with happenings in our fleet (Landie is tootling along, the carpet is due to be refitted in the Smart and the Merc had 2 new front suspension struts), our garden (need to repaint the doorknob for the shed and refit it) and just general observations of life, like how roads are just falling to bits with the repeated cycles of rain, frost and thaw. I can see why more and more folk opt for SUV's, although it is probably counter productive as the increasing weight of these vehicles likely makes the pothole problem worse.

Don't forget, you can put in the odd article too, like telling us what you thought of the last club visit, a recent experience with your local garage, or the rare/unusual car you spotted the other day. There must be plenty of titbits of information that is worth sharing with the wider club community.

It will be elsewhere in the magazine too, but this month we are in the Avoch Pavilion where you get to exercise your braincells with a wee quiz.

See you there.

Trish.



Alexander & Mackay
Muir of Ord IV6 7UA
01463 871321



Richard Lashley happened to be speaking to fellow Club member and near-ish neighbour, Graeme Mackay, who owns Alexander and Mackay in Muir of Ord (one of our listed Local Suppliers). He is offering a 10% discount on MOT's on classic vehicles to any member of the Club

Out and About

I was in Austria on a ski holiday with my family when these fine vehicles presented themselves at the bottom station of uplift in Kaprun during a day visit. Last time I was there the owner of the hotel opposite ours had a private collection in the basement of his hotel. That collection is now in a purpose built museum along the road which I might have visited if there had been no skiing.



Cheers, Jim MacKay



Caption Competition?

Cars and Coffee



It was an unexpectedly busy Cars and Coffee on February the 11th. The weather didn't seem to be doing us any favours but then the fog cleared and tempted a constant stream of cool motors into the Rollerbowl car park. Well done everyone.

At last week's Highland Classic Motor Club AGM I stepped into the role of "Membership Secretary." This morning I managed to collect a few outstanding Yearly Subscriptions as I mingled with the crowd and even tempted a couple more C&C regulars to join up, not only cementing their affiliation with the Event but opening them up to the Monthly "Highland Classic Motor Club" evening meetings.

Cheers, Miles.



ROTARY CLUB OF INVERNESS LOCH NESS



CLASSIC CAR TOUR-SATURDAY 8th JUNE 2024

- Starting and finishing in Inverness with a 170 mile route through stunning Highland scenery through Speyside, Glenlivet, Strathnairn and back along the iconic Loch Ness.
- **NO** entry fee !! however, entrants are asked to raise as much sponsorship as possible for charity.
- Principal beneficiaries for 2024 are **CHAS (Childrens Hospices across Scotland and Highlands & Islands Blood Bikes** with remainder going to the Charity Account of the Rotary Club of Inverness Loch Ness which supports local, national and international causes.
- Organised and run by motorsport enthusiasts for motorsport enthusiasts!
- Entry list now open and will close on **May 26th**don't delay!
- For full details, Regulations and Entry Form log into:-

<https://www.lochnessclassiccartour.weebly.com> "

- Entry Forms can be downloaded online or by contacting Nicol Manson at nicol.manson@btinternet.com or by telephone on 07774 695640 (before 8pm please).

-oOo-

Drive it Day 2024 - Sunday 21st April



This years chosen charity is NSPCC's Childline® to help a section of society that has needed huge help and support during the pandemic – vulnerable children. Lockdown has magnified all sorts of societal problems and the long days and weeks trapped in broken homes or abusive environments have put vulnerable children even more at risk.

Buy your fundraising plaque here: <https://www.driveitday.co.uk/>

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.

This is the first of two Drive it Day features, and shares the official FBHVC line. We have our own take on the next page. Note the date. It is the 21st, not the 28th as previously reported. There was an erroneous announcement out there somewhere because many people have picked up the wrong date.

HCMC Drive It Day — 21st April

Over the last couple of years, "Drive It Day" has provided an opportunity for many member clubs to hold events in support of FBHVC's work.

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Club is most grateful for this support and urges organisers to remember that the purpose of 'Drive It Day' is for us to be seen and appreciated by the public. This years 'Drive It Day' takes place on Sunday, 21st April.

To show support for this event in the North of Scotland, the Highland Classic Motor Club is organising a run for all classic car owners in the Highlands.

We will be assembling in Beaulieu at the Square from 12:30 for a 1pm departure to take us on a route that takes us through the Highland landscape finishing for coffee and biscuits at a country house hotel.

The route this year is approx 24 miles, going from Beaulieu via the hills to Muir Of Ord then onto the Fairburn Estate and travelling up Strath Conon to the Meig Dam utilising mainly single-track roads.

We will stop mid-way at the dam for a 20 minute break before continuing to Coul House Hotel in Contin where refreshments will be provided. Please do not arrive at Coul House before 14:30

Familiarisation of the route in advance is essential.

The route is mainly on single-track roads with some moderately steep hills. Depending on your vehicle, you may wish to travel to Coul House Hotel via a more conventional route, but please don't arrive before 14:30, as they won't be able to accomodate us until then (Coul House Hotel, Contin, Ross-shire, IV14 9ES)

There are various venues in Beaulieu that provide lunch, snacks and hot drinks prior to setting off.

As in previous years, all cars **MUST** be pre-registered for this event as spaces will be limited. Entry is open to all vintage, veteran and classic vehicle owners whether a member of the Highland Classic Motor Club or not, and is still free-of-charge.

This year we will be collecting donations for a local charity - L'arche Highland - <https://www.larche.org.uk/pages/category/larche-highland>

For further details, see The Highland Classic Motor Club website.

HCMC Events

Thursday 7th Mar 2024 The HCMC March Meeting is a Quiz Night and Social Evening from 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Avoch. (Behind the Station Hotel.)

Sunday 10th March 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. Park up, buy yourself a hot drink & snack from Rollerbowl & check out what's in the Car Park. Find us on FACEBOOK.

Sunday 17th February Informal coffee and chat meet at Cromarty cinema car park on the third Sunday of each month at 10am.

Some early 2024 club night dates for your calendar...

4th Apr 2024 HCMC Social Evening. Argue about the upcoming events for 2024 at the Craigmonie Hotel, 9, Annfield Road, Inverness, IV2 3HX. Gather in the Public Bar from 7.30pm.

2nd May 2024 The HCMC May Meeting is a scenic drive starting at 7.30pm from Beaully.

6th June 2024 TBC , but the HCMC June Meeting will be a scenic drive starting at 7.30pm.

4th July 2024 HCMC "Bring Your Own Pudding" Run to Nairn Links. The July Meeting is a 7.30pm scenic drive from Tesco Inshes car park, Inverness through to Nairn. You'll have had your Dinner! So bring your own Pudding (and maybe a Flask!)

1st August 2024 The August Meeting is a scenic drive, anti-clockwise around Loch Ness starting at 7.30pm from Tesco Holm, Inverness and finishing at the Whitebridge Hotel.

5th September 2024 The HCMC September meeting is a scenic drive around the Black Isle starting at 7.30pm from outside Harry Gows off the A9, North Kessock layby.