

CLASSIC SCENE



February 2025



No Mr. Bond Equipe owner, I expect you to drive.

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The club has an extensive archive of
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classic car ownership. To access this
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Cover Picture

A secret insight into an HCMC Com-
mittee meeting. The function rooms
at the Corriegarth Hotel are pretty
fancy.

Welcome to the March Newsletter

Every day is a school day when you're the Newsletter editor, and not just getting a C- for spelling and grammar, but this month I have discovered a process called sheradising; See Richard's article on the next page. This process involves coating fixings in zinc, not through the usual process of galvanisation but through a thermal diffusion method instead, heating the item in a zinc powder environment, and allowing the zinc to form a strong layer around the metal. Who knew? Probably all of you. Hopefully I'll be out of the dunces corner by next month, and I bet kids don't get sent to stand in the corner, facing in the way these days, do they?

I was a late arrival at the recent club committee meeting as I was working into the evening again. However I was very pleased to see new blood in the shape of Steve Hanson, Andrew Card and Mark Wilson, who were busy providing ideas and enthusiasm as if they've always been on the committee. It's like a body regenerating new cells to keep itself alive, though maybe that's not very flattering. To anyone.

After pencilling in the years events, we somehow got onto the subject of traffic laws and motoring etiquette and another of my traffic bugbears undertaking. As has been discussed on these pages before, it is not actually illegal but it is strongly discouraged by The Highway Code and if you undertake inappropriately i.e. Inbreach of the Highway Code, you could, according to Google, receive a fixed penalty notice (FPN) for careless driving or driving without due care and attention, and possibly 3 points. I remember a (classic) public information film from the '70s, "Don't be an under taker," with a picture of a coffin at the end. I tried to find this on the internet to prove my recollection but so far I have failed. I did meet Mike, who swims like a fish. Does anyone else remember the film I'm talking about?

Ironically, as I've just signed up for another year of newsletter editing I don't really have much news this month. I am preparing my Sierra XR4x4 for Drive it Day and so far it is up on the ramp awaiting a new fuel filter and a tiny bit of remedial welding but it's been in that position for a few weeks now, waiting. The Mundane-O has a few wee issues. Rattling drop links were replaced, and a dipped light failed. Ah ha! I had my auction night bulb kit to hand. It looked unopened to me but somehow the required H7 bulb was missing. Typical, but kind of amusing. I could imagine Bryan saying "Bulb kit - contains all the bulbs except the one you need." The Skoda Fabulous had a failed driving light, which required a fair bit of dismantling to get at but once I figured it out I had a bit of a lightbulb moment.

As you may remember I have a thing about old roads, and someone at work was working on a story about the old Ullapool road, a lot of which still exists further up the side of the glen. I'm going on holiday there soon so I hope to investigate.

See you out and about,

Calum

Ramblings from the Chair



Well, in the few milder days of recent weeks, I finally got round to removing the Senators fuel tank – a job I was not looking forward to as many years of reading magazine articles suggested that rusted metalwork and seized bolts were a certainty. And I'm guessing that forty years has gone by since the bolts were last moved! The tank is held in the fairly usual way by two metal straps bolted at each end. So having jacked the back of the car up and got the ramps under the wheels, I was slightly surprised to see the bolt heads were rust free, and slightly yellow suggesting that they might have been originally sheradised. The bolts are held by captive nuts inside small inverted turrets welded to the chassis rails. Very surprisingly, all the bolts freed off with a very loud crack and then they could be easily unscrewed by hand – amazing considering their forty year age. The tank was lowered with the help of blocks of wood, axle stands and the hydraulic jack with a little bit of pushing of the filler neck through the big rubber grommet below the bodywork flap



(a small amount of silicone grease helped). I was actually very pleased that the tank itself as it was not in as bad a condition as expected, with just a little surface rust below the crud that was built up on the top – my investigations suggested that the bottom of the filler pipe where it joins the tank is very prone to being eaten away by rust. As expected though, the flexible vent pipe was very brittle and holed where it turned upwards and confirmed my guess that this was where the leakage and fumes had come from on the last outing of the season, when the tank was over half full and we had been down some steep hills. The tank is formed in two pieces with a seam weld around a flange between them – all seemed to be mostly good except for one corner where the flange was a bit ragged at the edge and there was a tiny bit of petrol weep. I took the opportunity to clean up between the top and bottom flanges, treat with rust convertor and use a special fuel tank repair kit to fill the gap and then wrap the flange with the epoxy resin and fibreglass matting provided. Other minor areas of surface rust have been similarly treated with rust proofing and anti corrosion primer before being sprayed with black paint and finally covered with a wax based underseal material. As I write this, the tank is awaiting to be refitted when the outside temperature improves. Hopefully this will give the tank another forty years of life. As for the rest of the underside of the car, it all looks in remarkably good condition and I guess that it was undersealed from new. It did live in the south of England for the first half of its life and has been garaged (and has not been subjected to winter driving) during its second half, so guess that this has done much for its longevity. These cars were known for

premature rusting, like many an 80's vehicles, and was the main reason for their last journeys to the scrapheap in the sky.

Last month's quiz night was admirably hosted by Andrew Card and certainly got the old grey matter into action. One particular point regarding front seat belts led to quite a bit of debate – the official answer, on the night, was that the wearing of the belt by the driver of the vehicle became mandatory in 1975, much to many (older) members disbelief. My own later research seems to cast some doubts on this with most websites suggesting that 1983 was the date that front seatbelt wearing became mandatory for driver and passenger. I'm not sure we will ever have a definitive answer (nor does it really matter).

Next month's outing is to Ross's new depot in Nairn (just behind the car wash before the railway bridge on the east side of the river) – a place I did not know existed despite having passed a few times recently. I look forward to seeing you all there on the 6th March at 7.30pm (or leaving Inverness Retail Park in car sharing convoy at 7.00pm).

Regards, Richard

Drive It Day Sunday 27 April 2025

We now have a plan for Drive It Day 2025. The suggested route is...

Rollerbowl to Beauly (leaving via Clachnaharry Rd).
Beauly to Muir of Ord
Muir of Ord to Connon Bridge
Connon Bridge to Dingwall
Dingwall to Evanton
Evanton to Alness
Alness to Invergordon
Invergordon to Shandwick Inn

This is about 42 miles, and the plan is to briefly stop in Beauly, Muir of Ord and Dingwall for anyone wishing to join the run at these points. The quick route for any cars that need it (I'm not naming any marques or era's here!) is via the A9 and direct to the **Shandwick Inn**, the birthplace of the Highland Classic Motor Club.

Please see the FBHVC website for how to support the event and buy a fundraising 'rally plaque' www.driveitday.co.uk

Many thanks to Andrew Card for coming up with this route.



HCMC AGM

6 February 2025

Highland Classic Motor Club.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

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, Randal 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 (Braham) 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.

Footnote: The AGM minutes are officially a draft until they are approved and seconded, which usually occurs at the next AGM. The minutes are also stored on the Website at <https://www.highlandclassic.org.uk/public/newsletter/committeedocs.php> if the mysterious someone remembers to upload them.

HCMC Comittee meeting

10 February 2025

What happens at a committee meeting stays at a committee meeting? Well I'm just about to break that rule and publish an overview of what was discussed. To protect the innocent, names and will be left out as I see fit.

In summary; Risk assessments are in progress. Committee members are to provide a photograph of themselves to the webmaster so I will no longer be able to blame the other Callum when I get things wrong. The website is being reviewed for broken links. And we're in the process of buying two new event flags.

Membership joining and renewals is said to be running very smoothly.

The subject of lanyards or badges was raised as a means of easily identifying HCMC committee members at events like Cars and Coffee.

The committee decided that we should investigate whether it is possible to print our club logo and/or name to the event shelter's side panels. Someone (see no names, no pressure) agreed to look into this.

Cars & Coffee is given visibility through the free Spotlight magazine, and on the C&C and HCMC Facebook pages. It is made clear that the club organises the event, which is good kudos for the club, and also makes sure we are insured.

A member of staff from Autosave contacted the club to enquire about club interest in a loyalty or discount scheme. The committee agreed that such a scheme would be a useful benefit to HCMC club membership. Wait for more news on that.

Here's a sneak preview of the events we have pencilled in for the year ahead. We're looking for someone to organise some kind of non-competitive navigation rally or regularity run or similar and way into next year, could that be you? And we may have another BBC visit lined up, priority going to those who missed it last time. As always check the website for any updates or changes to these proposals.

Date	Venue	Event
6 March	Ross' Garage, Nairn	Visit
3 April	TBC	Talk by Prof. Basham, British Geological Survey
1 May	Glen Affric	Club run and potential visit to powerstation
5 June	Nairn	Pudding Run tbc
3 July	TBC	Regularity run, treasure hunt
7 August	Nairn and eastwards	Club Run
4 September	Black Isle/ Muir of Ord	Club Run
2 October	TBC	Talk by Tim Loftus, boat builder (tbc)
6 November	TBC	TBC



The new owners of the **Muir of Ord Hotel** are promoting a programme of event's in the village over the Easter weekend which will involve local businesses, coordinating a weekend programme of events for locals and visitors alike. There will be live music, entertainment, but most importantly for us classic vehicles on display and on a drive from Muir of Ord to Beaulieu and back.

If you want to represent the Highland Classic Motor Club there is the option of a free stand at the Saturday's Festival of Transport, with the mention of discounted entry to some of the chargeable events for members. We need

someone to take the lead on this for the club (I'm away again,) and if that lead is *you*, all you need to do is contact the organisers by email at ordarms@protonmail.com to arrange it all.

Some of you may have met the hotel owner Stuart Wilson at our Practical Classics gathering between Beaulieu and Dochgarroch two Novembers ago. He was driving an old Riley saloon which converted into a soft top en route to An Talla. I (Calum the editor) have had some email communication with him and I think he is trying to put Muir of Ord and of course his hotel on the Classic Vehicle map, taking advantage of the proximity of the North Coast 500. And who amongst us can complain about that? More classics for everyone! We hope to pay a visit to his hotel on one of our club runs this year.

ROTARY CLUB OF INVERNESS LOCH NESS



CLASSIC CAR TOUR-SATURDAY 7th JUNE 2025

Starting and finishing in Inverness with a 160 mile route through stunning Highland scenery through the Black Isle, Ardross, the Kyle of Sutherland, Easter Ross, Glen Convinth and Loch Ness side.

NO entry fee !! however, entrants are asked to raise as much sponsorship as possible for charity.

Principal beneficiary for the 2025 Tour is DEBRA, the "butterfly skin" charity 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-

Cars and Coffee

On a bleak mid winters day, it was our 8th Anniversary.



From the land of the rising sun, these car's are lot's of fun.



From dubbers to soft tops, take your hat off,



And say happy birthday, Cars and Coffee.



There were some Fords, that didn't rhyme. At least I couldn't think of one in time.



Out and About



Our Jim Mackay has been out and about. The Rover 75 was spotted at Gairloch and the Defender in Inverness.

Both Pandas were in Cervinia, Italy. One was in his hotel garage which was full of modern Porsches and the likes, no pictures of them! The older one had such narrow tyres, ideal for the snow covered roads.



The Fiat and Lancia above have pride of place at Turin Airport.



Not to be out done, your editor saw this Nissan Primera at Inverness Morrisons. It's in excellent condition and looks like a daily driver.

Local Rallies for 2025

A preview of local rallies and events booked in for 2025. Keep up to date by visiting the club website for the latest information.

- 2025-04-13 The Highlander Track 'n' Show North of Scotland Kart Club, Golspie.
- 2025-04-18 **NEW** Muir of Ord Easter 'Wake Up Weekend'
- 2025-04-27 Drive It Day. Details in this newsletter
- 2025-05-03 Highland Historic Commercial Vehicle Road Run, Dingwall Mart
- 2025-05-05 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
- 2025-06-01 Moray Miglia by the Moray Motor Museum
- 2025-06-07 Inverness Rotary Club Loch Ness Classic Car Tour
- 2025-06-08 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, 2 days, Fri 8th—Sat 9th
- 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 Mar 2025 HCMC Visit to Ross's Garage Ltd. Forres Rd. Nairn IV12 5QD (behind the Jet Wash on the A96 near the railway bridge.). Please arrive for a 7.30pm start, or meet up at the Inverness Retail Park off the A96 for a car sharing convoy leaving at 7.00pm.

9th Mar 2025 Cars And Coffee - Inverness At Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness. Surely you all know the drill by now? If not, head to Rollerbowl for 10:00 am.

13th Apr 2025 The Highlander Track 'n' Show North of Scotland Kart Club, Littleferry, Golspie. Tickets from thehighlandereventmanagementltd.com A day of Fast Cars, Food & Entertainment.

18th Apr 2025 Wake Up Weekend Muir of Ord 18th-21st April. Live Music, Classic Vehicles, Food & Drink over 4 Venues. Details at www.wakeupweekend.co.uk