

CLASSIC SCENE



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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

Lancia Aurelia America Spyder
Sold in America for 1.8 million dollars.
For Sale. Lancia Fulvia Coupe.
Now with a new (old) rear screen.
Offers in XS of £1.8 million. ONO

CHAIR BITTY APRIL 2014

Well, if that wasn't the shortest club night I've been to ever! We turned up just a little late to find that the pub was closed due to refurbishments. We kind of guessed that folk had moved on to another pub, but which one? We ended up just going home.

The season of activities and rallies is staring this month, not least our Drive-It day on 27 April. See elsewhere in the magazine for more information. Alternatively look on our



website, which always has an up to date list of rallies in our area. Or join our Forum for a chat. Tom is trying to get us a visit to see the Apache at Deephaven (the cable ship). As it is likely that this will be a very short notice event, any news will be posted to our Forum.

One other visit that we have been considering is to the Emergency Planning bunker in Inverness. Unfortunately they are not that keen on a visit. However, I was told that this year the bunker will be open as part of the Doors Open days in September/October this year. More details will be available on the Council's website nearer the time.

March had one nice weekend with some decent weather and I took the opportunity to tackle the garden. Tidied up a few bushes, planted a few more bulbs (tulips I think), then had to call it a day when the brown bin got full to the brim. The garden looks a little bit more respectable, although the grass still needs a cut.

The Smart is back on the road. We had a few things looked at that we didn't quite get round to before the winter. Asked our local garage to change the front brake disks and pads. And Autoglass came round to put in a new windscreen – first appointment was to try and fix the windscreen, but the gentleman decided that the chink was just a little too big. Second appointment they realised that they had ordered the wrong one. Third one is the charm as they say, right windscreen and fitted without a problem. Now we are waiting for the weather to improve again (where did that snow come from?), so we can go driving topless again.

We have got a new member this month:- Frank Ross, owning a 1974 MGB GT. Don't forget to take your car along to the next meet.

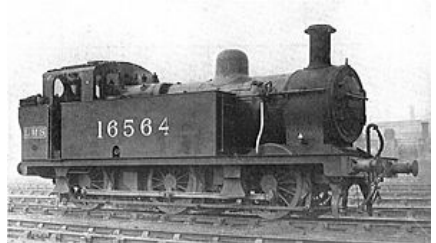
This month meet is at Happy Highland Campers at the Muirtown locks. Please make sure you are there at 7.30 prompt.

Cheers

Trish

A "Mystery Question" this month.

What is the connection between all of these pictures?



Answer on the back page.



CLUB EVENTS 2014



DATE	EVENT	VENUE & ADDITIONAL INFO
3rd Apr 2014	Club Visit	Happy Highland Campers Tour at 7.30pm Unit 8, Canal Road, Muirtown locks, Inverness. Clachnaharry Inn after.
1st May 2014	Club Run	To Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit. Meet at Highland Council HQ, Glenurquart Road 7.30pm
5th Jun 2014	Mystery tour.	Meet Tesco's, Dingwall For 7:30pm
3rd Jul 2014	Club Run	To The Garve Hotel, A835 Ullapool Road Meet at North Kessock Hotel 7.30pm
7th Aug 2014	Club Run	The Covenanter's Inn, Auldearn. Meet Culloden Battlefield Car Park 7.30pm
4th Sep 2014	Club Run	Royal Hotel, Cromarty Meet at North Kessock Hotel 7.30pm
2nd Oct 2014	Club Meeting	Old North Inn. Talk Night TBC.
6th Nov 2014	Club Meeting	Old North Inn. Talk Night TBC.
4th Dec 2014	Club Meal	TBC 7.30pm Bring a Secret Santa Gift.
8th Jan 2015	Auction Night	TBC Annual Club Auction—7.30pm
5th Feb 2015	Club AGM	Old North Inn AGM 7.30pm

A Practical Classic?

A couple of months ago, I was contacted by Neil Campbell – senior staff writer for Practical Classics magazine, with a view to featuring my car in one of their upcoming 'Reader Restorations'.



I had pretty much put it to the back of my mind until just a few weeks ago, when he contacted me with a view to doing the shoot early in the year. He was planning to travel to Pitlochry to feature a Bubble Car for the Easter Edition of the magazine and wanted to try to combine another assignment in the same visit.

Before the shoot, I was sent a standard list of what to expect, and what to do. What I had failed to realise, is that the 'Reader Restoration' feature is always presented in a fixed format as it is run as a competition. That means that there will be garage shots, static shots, dynamic driving shots etc. I was to locate a suitable spot for the outdoor shots and a long smooth 'police friendly' stretch of road where the photographer could hand out of the side door of the camera car.

The allotted day arrived and I picked up Neil from his Hotel looking slightly worse for wear after a night drinking in Inverness with Eddie Ritchie.

First stop was my house for a cup of tea and a chat whilst Neil recorded everything on a dictaphone and took notes. We were interrupted by the arrival of Andy – the photographer, and the main business of the day could then begin.

The Garage Shots

There was a small amount of set dressing (hiding things more than putting things out) whilst Andy, the photographer set up slave flashes around the garage. The car was repositioned whilst Neil swept up all of the autumn leaves from the floor. Apparently, their Art Director can be very fussy about things like that.

Miles turned up just in time for my debut as a motoring model – having just been positioned and posed, and then told to look natural! These shots are all fairly standard but they did insist on having me in some of the shots, which I'm never too keen on.



The Driving Shots

Next stop was over to North Kessock for the main outdoor shots. The car was positioned numerous times in the car park whilst long distance shots were taken with Inverness in the background.

The location of the driving shots were to be along the shore at North Kessock on the little bit of road that runs parallel with the main road. This was deemed ideal as it was long, straight and relatively smooth. Slight change of plan saw a certain Reliant Scimitar pressed into use as a camera car with Andy installed in the boot. I then had to drive about 12" off the back bumper of the camera car numerous times trying to remember to smile, but not look at the camera.

The Test Drive

Next up was the 'test drive' where Neil drives the car with Andy in the back taking the photos. After a very brief familiarisation of the gear shift pattern, they shot off along the road, returning a few minutes later, hooning into the car park with a severe list to port! Neil then decided to see how brave I was by setting up a shot at the end of the road by the lifeboat station. The idea was to come down the hill before turning left into the lifeboat station at full pelt. All I had to do was miss the photographer lying in the road!



We did about 3 or 4 takes on this one, each one progressively faster until I felt that I was happier with all four wheels on the ground, especially as it was leaning over to the drivers side this time!

All that remained was a bit more of a chat into Neils Dictaphone and then we were all wrapped up by 3pm. Andy, headed back to Stirling, but unfortunately, ended up stuck on the A9 when the snowgates were closed. Neil, couldn't believe his luck, as he was booked on the sleeper to Euston! I believe he made it as far as Rugby before they closed the line!

All in all, it was a very relaxed and enjoyable day out and I can thoroughly recommend the experience.

Callum

Editor:- It may be a month or two before the Citroen appears in PC



THE EDITORS MONTHLY RANT

(Or they never made them that good)



The weather is getting better, Highland Council are cutting back on the salt they use to destroy our cars and its nearly time for the car shows to begin. Many thanks to Miles for supplying an extensive list of motoring events and it won't be long before we are off to the first show. Which brings me to this month's rant. Octane magazine had an article by a former Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance judge. The article was entitled "Polishing Away the Past" and raises his concerns that the cars he judged for over 20 years are now no longer resembling the original cars and the preparation involved in obtaining that 100 point finish involved many hours of work by a big team of polishers and detailers. At a show in '98 this judge was with Italian coachbuilder Sergio Scaglietti looking at a 100 point restoration of one of his cars. "We never made them like that" was Sergio's comment. This judge also commented on a conversation with a well-known restorer on the subject of a 'concours' restoration against 'original' and the restorer said, "My craftsmen can't do work that sloppy." Which brings me to the point of my rant. Most of us enjoy driving our older cars, we look after them as best we can and we take them to shows because that is part of the fun. With the show season upon us the 'Best in show' prizes will no doubt go to the same 6 or 7 cars that have been trailered in and are not even driven on and off their trailers. Some of the older cars are immaculate. But they never made them that good in the first place. If you own a 1920's Austin 7 van it was painted with a brush! An uncle of mine worked for London Transport painting London Buses at Park Royal and up until the 60's London Buses were painted with a brush, then rubbed down to a mirror like finish. But you could still see the brush marks. So how about a prize for the most 'original' car. One that has been driven to the show and is a bit dusty, has a few scratches and dents, and the leather is cracked and faded but if that car is as old as me it should, like me, have a few grey hairs and scars, and steering joints and knee joints that are a bit past their sell by date. So if you are into cleaning the dust from the tread grooves in the tyres (I've seen this done at a show) and polishing the underside of the bonnet don't park near me. My Lancia is full of scratches and dents, the steering box is always full of fresh oil (the leak keeps the rust away!) and the silencer doesn't (Pardon did you say something. My ears are still ringing a bit). But I've had a ball thrashing it to the show and if, as usual, it doesn't win anything I can at least enjoy the drive back home. Always remember with Italian cars, there are only two positions for the throttle pedal..... on or off!

CLASSIC CAR EVENTS 2014

- 23rd Mar 2014 IMOG Spring Run Leave From Burger King, Inverness. 8.45am Start. See IMOG Facebook Page for details.
- 27th Apr 2014 'Drive It Day' 2014 Meet V8 Cafe, Henderson Road, Inverness. Local Highland Run to support FBHVC Dive It Day 2014. Cafe open from 8am. Gather any time after this for a tyre kick before the Road Run leaving 11am. Destination:- The Aultguish Inn A835 Ullapool Road for Tea/Coffee. Pausing in Muir of Ord.
- 3rd May 2014 Highland Road Run For Vintage Commercial Vehicles. Dalmore Distillery, Alness. 9.00am Start. Contact; Bill Herd:- billherd@znet.co.uk or John Mackenzie 01349 853933 or 07803987942
- 4th May 2014 Forres Theme Day, Forres.
Contact patersonsharon@aol.com.
Printing problems have led to a delay in posting out Entry Forms. Club Display - See Forum!
- 10th May 2014 Inverness Classic Vehicle Show. See Inverness BID website www.invernessbid.co.uk or download from the 'committee docs' section of our website.
- 1st Jun 2014 Fraserburgh Vintage Car Rally, Fraserburgh Leisure Centre, www.filc.co.uk
- 8th Jun 2014 John O'Groats Annual Rally.
Caithness. See www.csvvc.org
- 14th Jun 2014 Kirkhill Gala Day Classic Vehicle Display, Kirkhill Community Centre.
See www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk
- 22nd Jun 2014 Tain Vintage Vehicle Rally. www.taingala.co.uk. Arrive by 10.30am. Club Display - See Forum!

- 5th Jul 2014 Gairloch Gathering Classic Vehicle Display. Start 11am at Gairloch Pier. douglasg@burach.org.uk for more details. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gairloch-Highland-Gathering/315149696065>
- 12th Jul 2014 Beaully Gala. Beaully Gala Committee are looking for some cars to show at the Gala on Sat 12th.
- 10th Aug 2014 Historic Wheels Rally, Brodie Castle, Forres IV36 0TE www.moraymotormuseum.org for details and entry form.
- 17th Aug 2014 Dunrobin Castle Vintage Car Run & Rally, Police Dependents Trust Rally. Entry Form evelyn@sutherlandstates.com or 01408 633268. Starts Helmsdale 10am. Brora 11am. Embo 12noon. Dornoch 1pm. Dunrobin Castle 2pm. A £6 entry includes Lunch (£4 extra lunch) £2000 raised 2013!
- 30th Aug 2014 Fortrose & Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Show. Meet 11.30am Dingwall Auction Mart for 60min scenic run then static display at Fortrose Academy. Download Entry Form from Forum.
- 6th Sep 2014 Dingwall Car Show (Great Fail Maree) www.greatfeilmaree.org.uk
- 7th Sep 2014 Motor Mania at Grantown on Spey. REGISTER EARLY! www.grantown-motormaniaman.co.uk
- 27th Sep 2014 Strathnairn Vintage Rally & Display Daviot. www.daviotvintage.co.uk. 10am til 4pm Signposted from A9 at Daviot south of Inverness.
- 28th Sep 2014 Laigh of Moray Vintage Rally and Fun Day, Inchkeil Steading, Roseisle. 10am til 4pm 2 miles off A96 between Forres & Elgin on B9013 Burghead road. Late entries welcome.

This extensive list of 2014 events was compiled by Miles Vincent. For further information on some of the events go to the club website at www.highlandclassic.org.uk

The Best Story of the Year:

The pastor asked if anyone in the congregation would like to express praise for answered prayers.

Suzie Smith stood and walked to the podium. She said, "I have a praise. Two months ago, my husband, Phil, had a terrible bicycle wreck and his scrotum was completely crushed. The pain was excruciating and the doctors didn't know if they could help him."

You could hear a muffled gasp from the men in the congregation as they imagine the pain that poor Phil must have experienced.

"Phil was unable to hold me or the children," she went on, "and every move caused him terrible pain." We prayed as the doctors performed a delicate operation, and it turned out they were able to piece together the crushed remnants of Phil's scrotum, and wrap wire around it to hold it in place."

Again, the men in the congregation cringed and squirmed uncomfortably as they imagined the horrible surgery performed on Phil.

"Now," she announced in a quivering voice, "thank the Lord, Phil is out of the hospital and the doctors say that with time, his scrotum should recover completely."

All the men sighed with unified relief. The pastor rose and tentatively asked if anyone else had something to say.

A man stood up and walked slowly to the podium.

He said, "I'm Phil." The entire congregation held its breath. "I just want to tell my wife..... the word is sternum."

Mystery Question Answer:- They were all made by Beardmore, a Glasgow based company.

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