

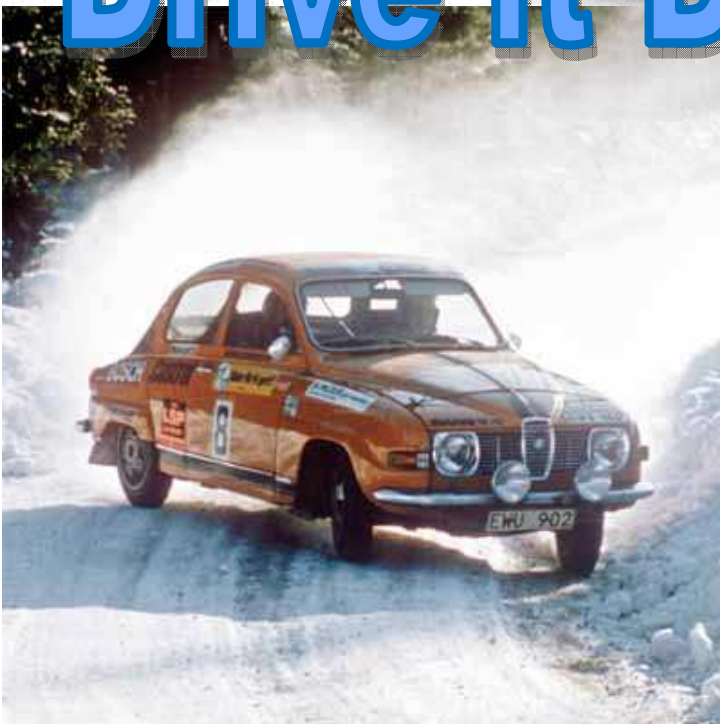
CLASSIC SCENE



May 2017



Drive it Day 2017



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The club has an extensive archive of information relating to all aspects of classic car ownership. To access this please contact Ranald Smith, at Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, Inverness IV2 3NG. 01463 236459
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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

Some cars that may look a bit familiar to club members on the Monte Carlo Rallye.

Welcome to the May Newsletter. The Classic Car year is well on it's way despite recent snow, with a club run and Drive It Day already completed and show season will soon begin. In honour of Drive It Day, this newsletter contains pictures of lots of cars being driven. I hope you enjoy it.

Ed.

Britain's Best Classic Cafe

The Ballinluig Motor Grill has made the top 12 best roadside cafes in a Practical Classics readers vote. Practical Classics are on tour and will be there (PH9 0LG) on Saturday 6th May at 11:00 if you fancy meeting them. It's the only café in Scotland to make the list.

**practical
CLASSICS**



Food deliveries for club members?

(Chris Silver)

Chairs Bitty

Last month we had our first run of the year, with a jaunt around the Black Isle before descending on Beaulieu. I think we had about 11 cars on the run. Not as many as on Drive It Day, where 43 cars set off from the V8 cafe on our way to Cromarty



via the Old North Inn for a cup of tea/coffee. A good mix of vehicles from the vintage era right through to modern classics such as the lovely looking Ford Granada. With that many vehicles it is not surprising that the queue strung out over several miles. And several junctions and a set of lights later I think we ended up in 3 separate convoys. The weather was not as pleasant as last year, with a very strong (and cold!) wind blowing across the firth as we parked up on the shoreline at Cromarty. We were reminiscing about Drive It Day 2 years ago when we had a lot of (and I mean **a lot**) snow on the way home. If the weather forecast is to be believed there is yet more snow on the way for the end of April. Hurray.

Our little Smart came out of the garage in March and Alice booked her in for a major service. Not with our local garage – who is not comfortable with working on our wee car. Nor with the main dealers, with whom over the years we've got rather fed up with. No, she was booked into a little garage down the central belt. The Roadster club makes much use of this garage and it helps that the owner themselves own a Smart. Alice has been saying for some time now that there is a rattle from the front. Our local man was unable to find anything unusual during the MOT last year, so we've been plodding on with the nasty rattles for a few months more. This is where a garage who deals a lot with Smarts has a distinct advantage. They diagnosed 2 worn lower ball-joints and a worn track-rod end. What a difference to the ride! They also established that the main dealers hadn't changed the lower bank of spark-plugs in many years and probably not since the car first got serviced in Inverness 8 years ago when Perth stop servicing Smarts.

The Merc is feeling poorly as well. Just yesterday (i.e. the Saturday before Drive It Day), it decided to light up like the proverbial Christmas tree, go into limp home mode and thereafter refusing to start. Alice was not impressed that she got stranded in Inverness on a night out. We are not sure yet what the problem is, but after going through several Internet articles we are suspecting the brake switch as this also affects the cruise control which has been funny in the last couple of weeks with every now and then refusing to engage.

So, to this months meet. We are meeting up at Arnold Clark van-hire place on Harbour Road at the slightly earlier time of 19:00pm for a look around their classic car show room, before a run up to Auldearn.

See you there.

Trish.

Contributions

We're always looking for your items for the Newsletter, short or long funny or factual, please send them to editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

We're are looking for Me and My Car articles, similar to the one in this issue.

Thanks to those that have sent pieces in. If it's not in this month, it will be soon. Keep up the good work!

Club Meeting Updates

There are now 5 places left on November BBC visit.

Forres theme day. 30th April Grant Park. Arrive 09.00 - 12.30 Judging 10.00 - 14.00 (Judged Entry Deadline 9th April.) Winners Parade 16.30 Contact; forresvintagevehicleassociation@yahoo.co.uk OR patersonsharon@aol.com
Late Entries on day will not be Judged. HCMC Club Display - See Our Forum

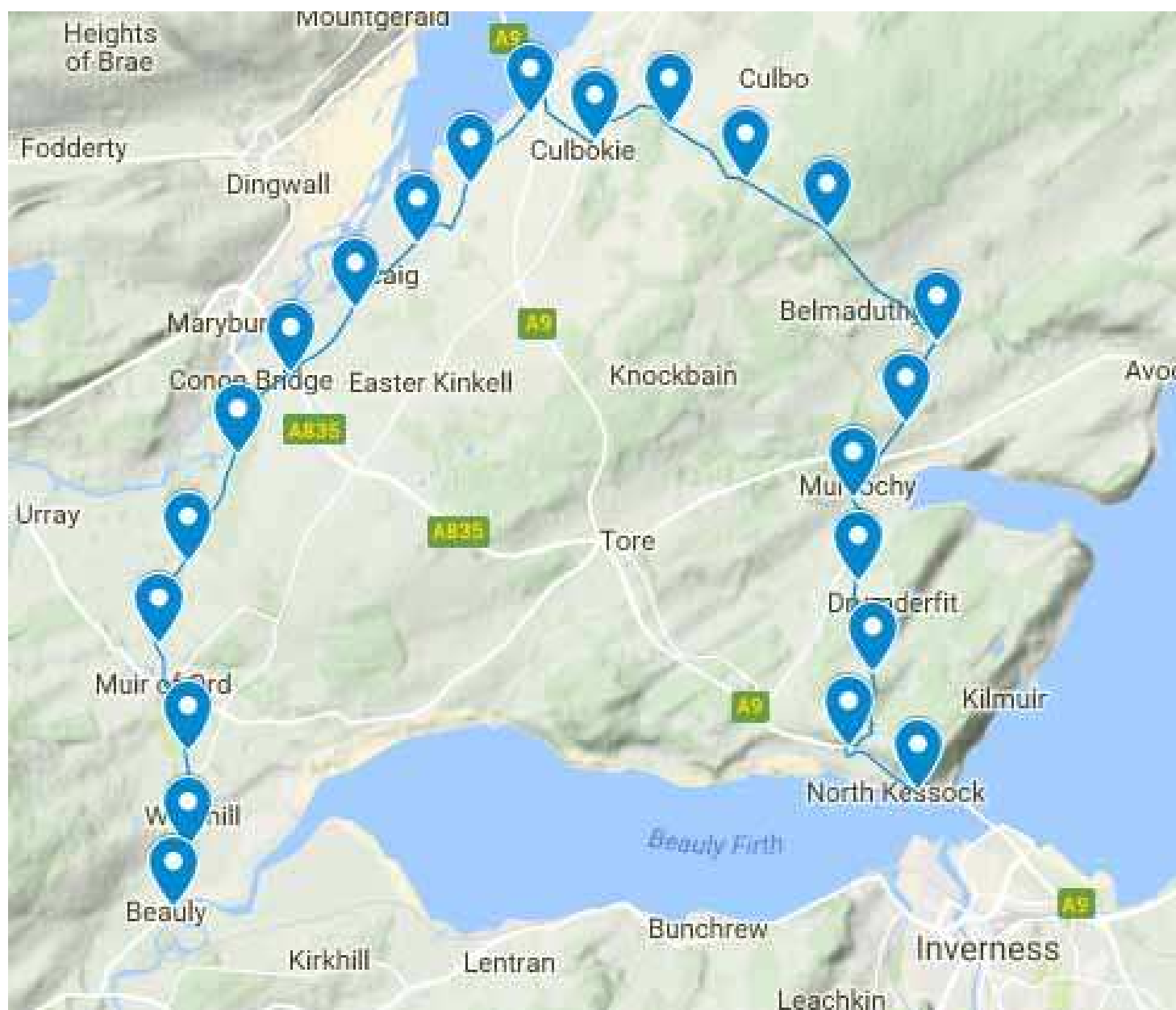
Club night Thursday 4th May. Meet at Arnold Clark Van-hire on Harbour Road from **7pm** for an 8pm departure to Aldearn

Club Run to Beauly on Thursday 6th April

The Club run on Thursday was well attended especially considering how early it was in the year. The car list was varied and included (from memory) a 2CV, Aston Martin DB7, Mini, Fiat X1/9 (roof off), Escort Van, Toyota MR2, Citroen AX, Citroen Dyane and a Jaguar XJS at the last minute.

The run was expertly led by Trish and Alice over Drumsittal, through Munloch and up over Mount Eagle. There was a nice descent into Culbokie, followed by a clever little dogleg down to the shore road. We crossed the A9 into Conan Bridge, and from there it was a straight forward drive through Muir of Ord to Beauly.

We popped in to the Priory Hotel for chat and alcohol free drinks for most. (lucky passengers.) Tennants Hee Haw seemed quite popular.







Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique 2017

We spotted this event and agreed to go to it if there was no skiing. The venue was Paisley Abbey so there was something for both of us to see. I had a quick squint at the abbey and then immersed myself in classic cars.

The Historique class went all the way to Monte-Carlo whilst the Classique just had a short local run or no run at all. Everyone went up on to the start ramp to get flagged off so it was properly done with hype and fireworks. The ramp was constructed on a triple axle trailer but very steep and I had visions of cars losing their exhausts before they could start. Fortunately the organisers spotted the problem and extended the ramps so even the Healey 3000 made it.

There were a lot of cars in the Classique class which were prepared well for rallying and eminently capable of going the distance. Their owners, however had reasons for not going to Monte-Carlo and I was with them here. There is no way I would travel that distance in the dark in the A40 or Samantha. I would get there I have no doubt but would I have the will to live at the end of it? Fortunately for the organisers there were 20 crews up for it in a wide range of cars showing a wide range of condition. Paddy Hopkirk's Mini Cooper S was just the business and you know I might have been persuaded with this one!



The Austin 1800, Rover P4, Rover P6 and the Volvo 122S looked a comfortable armchair drive but an Austin A35, Sunbeam Stiletto, MG Midget and an upright Ford Popular might not have been so comfortable. The MGB GT failed to start with ignition problems. The crew, dressed in dinner suits had an experienced mechanic going through the system with unhelpful advice from yours truly. I left them still working on it and I haven't been able to find out if they did get going.



There were no such problems with the original RS2000 "x pack" model or the Opal Kadett, Fiat 127, Fiat124, MGYB, Cortina Mk1, Porsche 924 or Chrysler Sunbeam. And there appeared to be no problems with the 1930 Austin 7 Ulster other than it had no hood and no space. It did, however, have the exhaust running along the passenger side so I suppose bacon would have been an easy on-the-go meal! The crew didn't have proper Gore-Tex but layers of fairly cheap gear so room for improvement there. They were sandwiched in and up for it and made it! What spirit!

Cheers, Jim MacKay.



Drive it Day 2017



Drive it day on Sunday 23rd April was a well attended event with almost 40 cars setting off from the V8 Café in Inverness to the Old North Inn at Inchmore.

There we stopped for a cup of tea and a bit of chat with familiar faces and some new ones.

Suitably refreshed we were led out by Miles in his Scimitar, to head to Beaulieu, Muir of Ord, along the coast at Redcastle and over Drumsittal to Munlochy. Then we headed east through the Black Isle to Rosemarkie, with a turn up the Eathie Road to end the run in Cromarty.

There we scattered to various cafes and eateries and gradually dispersed after an excellent morning's drive.

Overleaf is a collection of pictures for your enjoyment.





Me and My Car

Car: Burton

Owner: Callum Beveridge

Type: 2-seater roadster

Engine: Horizontal 4-stroke twin, 602cc

0-60: Eventually

Top Speed: 80mph



How long have you had it? Started preparation of my Burton in 2004 as a commuter car for my daily drive from Reading to Woking. Changed job, moved house twice and finally finished it in 2006 after a six-month build.

What work have you had done on it? Everything. Built from a friend's Citroen 2CV, it only had 20k on the clock and had succumbed to terminal chassis rot. The 2CV had to be dismantled, refurbished and repaired where necessary. The engine has only ever had a top-end rebuild and is still running with 28hp as it was in the 2CV. The Burton was built on a new galvanised chassis with a custom long-ratio gearbox, modified caster angle, inboard front disk brakes, electronic ignition etc. It reuses many parts of the original 2CV (rear seat) as well as parts from Austin Healey, MG, Mini and Harley Davidson to name a few.

What do you like about it? I just enjoy driving it. It's extremely comfortable and although not fast, it feels fast. I drive it all year-round albeit with a gull-wing hard-top in the winter months. It's taken me all over the UK as well as to Belgium, France and Ireland.

What makes it a classic? Not sure it really is a classic, but the car it was built from has gained classic status now, and to the man in the street, it appears to be a much older car than it is. It's not trying to be anything in particular, and every Burton is unique – making it impossible to judge at car shows.

What other cars do you own? I've got a yellow 1979 Citroen Dyane which I rebuilt over a five year period as well as a 1981 Dyane which is currently in the process of being 'seen to'. I've also got a few other Citroens which have been dismantled and tucked away which I'm losing track of.

Please send You and Your car to editor@highlandclassic.org.uk (In a similar format if you can.) Many thanks! Ed.

Cars and Coffee 3 . The Return



It looks like it was another successful event on the 9th of April at the V8 Café, Longman Industrial Estate, Inverness. 10 am start folks.

Yet again there was different groups of cars, from old classics to new ones from performance cars to sedate drives. Something for everyone.



CLUB EVENTS

30th Apr 2017	Forres Theme Day	Grant Park, Forres	Arrive 09.00 - 12.30 Judging 10.00 - 14.00 (Judged Entry Deadline 9th April.) Winners Parade 16.30
4th May 2017	Scenic Drive to Aldearn via Galcantry	Arnold Clark Van-hire on Harbour Road	Meet at Arnold Clark Van-hire on Harbour Road from 7pm for an 8pm departure
6th May 2017	Highland Historic Commercial Vehicle Road Run	Dalmore Distillery, Alness	Alness to Nethybridge Commercial Vehicle Road Run. Details on Facebook or Call 07803907942. Registration Open.
13th May 2017	Inverness Classic Vehicle Show	Inverness City Centre	Registration now open! See Inverness BID website www.invernessbid.co.uk
14th May 2017	Cars And Coffee - Inverness	Cafe V8, Inverness	10am to 12 noon Every 2nd Sunday of the Month. A new Social Event for all Car Enthusiasts. Park up, buy yourself a hot drink and snack from the Cafe V8 and the check out what's in the Car Park. Chat to old friends and make new! Find us on FACEBOOK.