

CLASSIC SCENE



May 2018



Drive It Day 2018

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CLASSIC SCENE

The next 'Classic Scene'
GOES TO THE PRINTER
on the Thursday of the week preceding the next meeting
Please send articles by e-mail or typed.

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COVER PICTURE

Drive it day 2018 at The Old North Inn, Inchmore.

Welcome to the May Newsletter.

Spring is finally in the air, the classic season is firmly under way and there is plenty of news this month.

We had a higher turnout than expected on the 5th of April club run, a wee jaunt around the middle Black Isle, and I hope it was enjoyed by all who attended. I led the way in the Mini, leaving a trail of fumes to keep the route marked. I noticed you have more fun following others further back in the trail of cars though. Such is the responsibility of office.

Social Media has been playing a big part in events this month, beginning with the usual success of Facebook based Cars and Coffee at the V8 Café in Inverness, but there was also a buzz around the old Top Gear crew of Clarkson, May and Hammond driving around the Highlands for an episode of The Grand Tour. Whether they are your cup of tea or not, they undeniably brought a bit of positive attention to our home patch, and over 800 people decide to leave their mark on the HCMC Facebook page. This popularity appeared to increase the number of likes on our 'Drive It Day' promotion which is the ripple effect of social media success.

On the 18th and 19th of April, Hero Events based their 'The Scottish Malts 2018' Classic Car Regularity event at the Inverness Kingsmills hotel for a couple of nights, and there were some very exotic classics from all over the world parked up. The pictures and videos on our club Facebook page had over 2000 likes and again interest in 'Drive It Day' seemed to be boosted.

There is also cross pollination between the Inverness Cars and Coffee followers and our club page, and then to the HCMC website so if you're a fan of social media or not, there is no doubt that it works for promoting our club and classic cars in the north. Promotion helps

keep us in the public mind so hopefully politicians and bureaucrats will keep a place in the law to keep our cars on the road which is the message behind Drive It Day.

Happy classic motoring, Your editor.



Chairs Bitty

We had a lovely drive round the Black Isle for last months meet. In our Smart of-course, the replacement wheels (slightly smaller using tyres with larger sidewalls) do improve the ride considerably. 10 cars turned up at North Kessock as we set off for our jaunt. I mentioned it last month, that the winter has not been kind to our roads, and



we had a number of potholes to avoid on our journey. The first one a veritable trench across the slip road onto the A9 which we crossed very carefully. We drove through the new estate down to the Shore Road, a route we had not taken before. I was not impressed with the new housing at North Kessock, it seems that with every new housing scheme that gets build they pack more and more houses onto a smaller plot of land. Some day sardines will have more space than us. We arrived back at the North Kessock Hotel just as the light was fading.

More driving this month for Drive It Day. I am not sure how many cars turned up, but the car park at the V8 Cafe was full. A good mix of modern and classic vehicles, although I overheard one wag claim the Land Rover isn't a classic – I'll have you know it was probably the second oldest vehicle there! I think we set off at around 11 ish for into the Old North Inn for a cup of tea/coffee. It was a bit of a squeeze with that many cars, but with triple parking you can get a lot of cars in their car park. After this break we were one of the last 4 vehicles to leave on the run to Foulis.

It took a mile or so before we caught up with the back of the queue. Not much later it became clear that not everyone knew the exact route as most cars took the direct route for Foxhole (going right). We followed Callum (going left) round the countryside, or at least we tried to but he managed to easily outpace our Landrover with his Dyane.

Callum diverged again going round the back of Beauly where we lost our leader after having to break heavily to avoid running over a cat. Instead of crossing the road, the cat ran up the road – it had a very lucky escape as at one point we lost sight of it before it re-emerged in front of our slowing vehicle then shooting up a driveway.

Spotted Callum again in Beaulieu, then lost him again near Alcaig and all of a sudden we are at the head of the queue as others appeared from the Ryefield road and had to give way to us. Quick spurt over the Cromarty Bridge before we parked up at Foulis.

Drive It Day has taken its toll on our Land Rover. As we reversed out of Foulis there were some nasty clonks from the front and we suspect that a swivel joint may have gone. Landy still got us home though.

Our Audi went in for a service this month. We will be doing a bit of towing this year so we asked for the gearbox oil to be changed too. And just as well as it turned out that the gearbox pan was in a rather poor state. Bad enough that it was starting to deform as the sump plug was undone. A replacement pan is rather expensive (ouch at £250). Then our man at the garage decided he didn't like the look of the disks either and replaced them too – all 4 of them. And the rear callipers – one of which we were expecting as it had a sticking hand-brake. We haven't got the final bill in yet, but we are already wincing.

This month we are visiting Ross' Garage on Clava Road. It is a little bit earlier than normal. We meet up at the Culloden Battlefield Carpark at **19:00pm** for some car sharing as there is limited space at the garage. See you there.

Trish.

HERO Scottish Malts Classic Regularity Event 16TH - 20TH APRIL



'The Malts' is a classic 950 mile blend of regularities and driving tests set in the beautiful scenery of Scotland. 2018 sees the 16th running of the event, starting and finishing at The Gleneagles Hotel. A two night stay at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness gave local car enthusiasts the chance to see some exotic machinery.

Continued over the page...



I remember, I think in 2012 driving towards Ullapool from the North in a diesel Peugeot making good progress when a Bentley not dissimilar to the one above over-took us at some speed, making the most amazing racket and leaving the behind a smell that should be bottled and sold as aftershave. (OK. Niche market.)



1933 Aston Martin Le Mans Short Chassis Two-Seater Sports with road dirt.



A lovely old Austin Landcrab and a fairly early Porsche 911, a 2.7 I think.

An Austin Healey 100 and a Volvo Amazon



Lancia Aurelia GT

A 1949 Healey Westland Roadster



And so the sun sets on the Kingsmills carpark. Hopefully they will be back in two years time.

Drive It Day 2018

About 50 vehicles turned up for this year's Drive It Day, meeting at the V8 Café on Henderson Road, Inverness. Departure time was 10:30 and there was already plenty of activity at 09:30.



The Highland Classic Motor Club presented the Highland Hospice with our long promised donation of £250 and we took a couple of charity buckets with us on the run to raise over £100 in donations.



The route started off as a fairly simple drive through town to The Old North Inn along the A862 on the south shore of the Beaulay Firth.





We stopped in the Inn's car park for a nice cup of tea or coffee, and they even put out Custard Creams! We lost some cars from the start and it was suspected some just came out for the start and some possibly broke down. Allegedly.



After the break, the route went off-piste going left off the A862 up hill to a wee place called Newtonhill and then down through Reelig Glen. Already some cars were making wrong turns and it soon became hilarious with cars splitting at junctions and then crossing paths later on.



I made the easy mistake of following the cars in front before realising we were on the wrong fork of an Abriachan/Moniak Road. The cars behind were amused to see me braking and gently reversing to get on the back of the dwindling queue of cars on the correct route.

And so I learned that the Beetle could not keep up with a Citroen Dyane on narrow back lanes and I started to lead my own group as cars materialised behind me. Navigation was certainly difficult without a passenger to help.

On the B9169 near Muir of Ord we passed a collection of Porsches going the other way. I like to think they were enjoying a drive it day experience too.



Once we passed through Kilmorak and the high road north of Beauly, navigation became a bit more straight forward, but still there was room for error/comedy (delete depending on your point of view.)



We finished at the Storehouse just north of the Cromarty bridge. With the scattered nature of the run, some cars were leaving as we were arriving, which was just as well as our designated parking area was full. And so was the Storehouse, with a queue almost out of the door. The feedback I got was of an excellent route on less travelled roads with beautiful scenery. The attendance was good and the rain mostly held off until the end, when it poured down.



All in all it was an excellent Drive It Day.



The Grand Tour Comes to the Highlands

James May, Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond were in our area filming for their TV show. They were spotted all over the place and social media was abuzz with their presence.



Cars and Coffee 8th April

Calum Pearson



I spoke to a 'mannie' called Norman MacFarlane who has probably the quickest Moke north of Tomatin. He knew his stuff too. One thing that I have never been sure of is the difference between a Mini Cooper S wheel and a 'Reverse Rim.' Now wait until I get my anorak on...

... A Mini Cooper S came with 10 x 3.5" steel wheels with the round ventilation holes, but 4.5" rims were available as an option. These had a significant offset to fit over the 7.5" disc brakes. If you had a drum brake Mini and wanted that 'S' look, Special Tuning and Dunlop amongst others offered a steel rim with the round ventilation holes of the right offset for drum brakes. These had a deeper visible rim and were known as reverse rims. So now you know.



Here is the Hot Rod section.

All isn't as it seems with that Morris Minor. It's all Ford running gear and a 2.0 Duratec engine in there.

I wonder how the new MOT rules are going to affect this kind of car?



All is not as it seems with this MG ZT either. Under the bonnet is a Mustang V8 engine. But still all is not as it seems with that 4.6 L V8 engine.



This is a Roush super-charged 4.6-litre Mustang V8, giving close to 400hp and is the last conversion done under license in the UK.

This car lives in my home village of Lhanbryde and the owner (Jim I think) knows my Mum from church. I bet he's never late.



Me and My Car

Car: 1997 Vauxhall Calibra SE8

Owner: Douglas Leith, Huntly

Type: 2 door coupe

Engine: 2.0litre 16v

0-60: Quick enough

Top speed: Whatever the law allows.

How long have you had it: Nearly 3 years

A little bit of history: I can already hear the sharp intake of breath...."A 1990s car !?", "A Vauxhall !?", "What's it doing on these pages !?" There were 41,000 Vauxhall Calibras sold in the UK between their launch in 1989/90 and their end of production in 1997/98 – now there's just over 1% of them left on the road.

My one is one of just a few SE8s left on the road. Every year Vauxhall would produce an SE (Special Edition) version, by painting on a special colour or attaching different wheels. The SE8 came in the attractive magnetic blue and a 'go faster' spoiler on the boot. My SE8 spent most of its life in the North West of England, regularly serviced and well cared for as an everyday car hence why it has notched up 95,000miles. Having already owned a Calibra many years ago I was on the lookout for one which hadn't succumbed to the usual sill rust, nor been modified by the local boy racer club. This one seemed to fit the bill so took a gamble on it, which paid off.

The Calibra is basically just a Cavalier with a different body – but what a distinctive body, and one which set the Calibra apart from the rest of the pack 30 years.

What work have you (had) done: Thankfully, almost nothing, which was the idea in buying this one. I had the timing belt replaced at the beginning of this year as there was no paperwork to suggest it had been changed so better safe than sorry.



What do you like about it: The shape first and foremost. As a replacement for GM's Manta coupe, the Calibra brought a much more sleek and modern design which I argue still does not look particularly dated today. But it's also a great drive – smooth 2litre engine and much better handling than the usual experience of a Vauxhall where you turn the steering wheel and wait for something to happen. It also has oodles of space for a coupe – the boot is huge and you can comfortably put adults in the back.

What makes it a classic: A desirable car of its day which has rapidly become rare. I took it to the Inverness Car Show last year and the number of people who came over to say they either wished they had one of these, or they did have one and regretted selling it was unbelievable.

What other cars do you own: Jaguar XE for daily use (though I'm unimpressed with it); a seemingly indestructible Hyundai i800 for lugging children and animals around; and about to emerge from restoration next month is a 1987 Opel Manta GT/E (hope to have it at a show before the season is out).

We're running short. Please e-mail your 'Me and My Car' to....

editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

Club Night 5th April 2018—Black Isle Drive and Pint



We had a nice little drive around the central bit of the Black Isle followed by a pint or a soft drink at the North Kessock Hotel for a bit of car chat and general catch-up. There was a good turn-out for an April run, and thank you to all of you came.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Venue	Details
3rd May 2018	Ross's Garage Ltd.	Clava, Inverness	Visit to Ross's Garage Ltd. Clava Rd. Inverness IV2 5EL. Meet EARLY at Cul-loden Battlefield Car Park 19.00pm
5th May 2018	Highland Historic Commercial Vehicle Road Run	Dalmore Distillery, Alness	Details on Facebook or Call 07803907942. Registration Open
6th May 2018	Forres Theme Day	Grant Park, Forres	Arrive 09.00 - 12.30 Judging 10.00 - 14.00 (Judged Entry Deadline 8th April.) Winners Parade 16.30 Contact; forresvintagevehicleassociation@yahoo.co.uk OR patersonsharon@aol.com Late Entries on day will not be Judged.
12th May 2018	Inverness Classic Vehicle Show	Inverness City Centre	Full. See Inverness BID website www.invernessbid.co.uk
13th May 2018	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.
19th May 2018	Rotary Club of East Sutherland Classic Car Tour	Dornoch-Achiltibuie-The Summer Isles	http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1668 Call 07785261110 Limited Spaces.
27th May 2018	Highland Folk Museum Vintage Day	Newtonmore	Arrive by 10am. Finishes 4pm. Classic Cars, Bikes, Agricultural Vehicles etc. at the Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie Rd, Newtonmore on Sunday. Entry Form online at; https://www.hIGHLIFEhighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/vintage-day/
2nd Jun 2018	Trucknessie	Bogbain Farm, Inverness	10:00 - 17:00 Bogbain Farm, IV2 5BD Inverness www.facebook.com/truckness/