

CLASSIC SCENE



June 2023



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Cover Picture

Lower Church Street at the Inver-
ness Classic Vehicle Show.

Welcome to the May Newsletter

The Classic season is in full swing! We're out there driving about on club nights or planned tours, and there are shows a plenty to go to. We've had Drive It Day, Forres Theme Day and The Inverness Classic Vehicle Show. The 28th May is the Highland Folk Museum Vintage Day at Newtonmore and the 3rd June is the Ardersier Gala Classic Car Show. And there's more to look forward to.

My car show prep was putting the Sierra suspension back together, a bit of welding and a last minute MOT (clean sheet!). I still have an intermittent engine running issue, but I think I have traced it as far as the wiring loom over the top of the engine which carries several sensors and electrical signals to the fuel injectors. At least I have a sort of plan of action now. Otherwise the old thing was looking shiny and got a fair number of positive comments at the Inverness Classic Vehicle Show. More on that later.

The Beetle is still without a battery as I've been busy with the above. I also seem to have a buyer for my Peugeot 205 GTi project. Great cars but I'm just not feeling the love there and I need space in my life, head and garage. And hopefully I can get stuck into the Minis which are my first love.

Just as an aside to fill the page, I had a terrible trip down the A9 a couple of weeks ago. Three near misses.

1. A car pulled out of a junction into the braking distance between me and the lorry in front. Big emergency stop and swearing.
2. Near head on with a high speed overtaking car. Emergency stop.
3. Near rear ending from above incident saved, I believe by collision avoidance technology.

I really think the A9 has got worse. I thought the average speed cameras had calmed it all down, but we seem to be back where we were before they were installed.

I'm going to put this out there. Do you think all the modern driver aids are taking away from actual driver skills and are actually making things more dangerous. That's a topic for a pub night next winter. Meanwhile it's still summer! Well spring technically, which brings me back to the Sierra suspension.

Be safe out there,
Your Editor.

P.S. I've had a busy three weeks so my head hasn't been in the right place for writing the newsletter. Apologies if I've missed out something vital and obvious!

Chairs Bitty

We were unable to join you on our first run of the year, organised by Richard. From what I have heard you all had a good time. The word "stage rally" did surface in one comment. And as I challenged all of you last month to provide a wee write up, I am expecting to see a few photographs and your feedback in this magazine. If I don't, I will be very disappointed with you.



We were away for a few weeks and after replacing the abs ring/sensor (see last month), the Merc behaved impeccably. It is a bit older than the outgoing C class, with an old school technology normally aspirated petrol engine, hence the fuel bills are a tad higher than we have gotten used to. But it does have very nice comfy seats. And we don't need to worry about the (ultra) low emission zones – which is another reason why we went back to petrol.

During our time away, the council has started on putting in these 20mph zones in our area, including speed bumps and slalom type crossing places. I am not a fan of speed bumps, never mind what they do to your suspension or when you have a car that bottoms out no matter how carefully you try and go over one. It seems to me that it increases local pollution and noise, cars slowing down and then accelerate, all outside your front door. A bit counter intuitive if the aim is to reduce pollution, if you ask me.

As we've been away, there hasn't been much happening in the garden. You must have had good weather when we were south of the border. The garden was in reasonable shape before we left. It is reasonably overgrown now we are back. The grass is near knee height. The blueberry appears to have bitten the dust as it is looking rather brown. The strawberries have disappeared beneath dandelions, grass, buttercup and other assorted windblown weeds. The only reason that I can see where they are is their white flowers. This is going to take some time to get the place back into shape, me thinks. At least the onions and potatoes are looking ok.

Getting back to our magazine, editors present and past have always done a sterling job of putting together an interesting package for us to read and we have a few regular contributors. But come on gentlemen and ladies, write a paragraph every now and then. We should not rely on always the same voices.

So June's meeting is a slight change of plans. Out goes a trip to Ullapool and in is a guided visit to Feddanhill Woods near Fortrose. Brush up on your woodland skills, I am considering including some in next years quiz.

See you there.

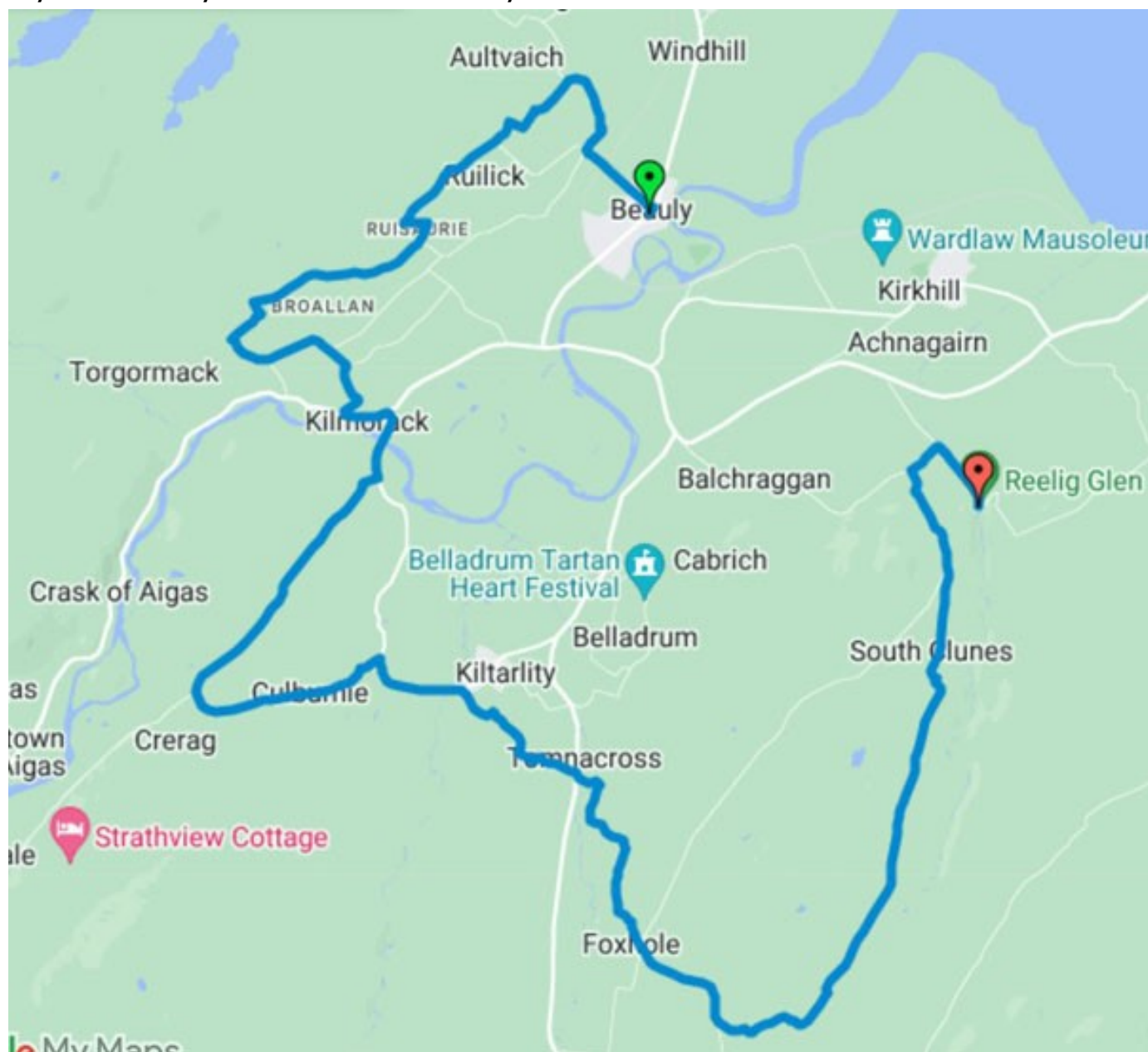
Trish.

May Club Night - Richard's Route

Richard Lashley put in a grand effort planning our first club night of 2023 making one of the more interesting drives I've been on in a while (excluding Drive It Day.) The views and the scenery were stunning. We were on a mystery tour following the (hopefully) now standard Tulip Diagram. Unfortunately my eyesight prevents me from reading these without stopping but others seemed to manage perfectly well. After the 5th direction change I was reduced to following the car in front and I developed a new appreciation of a Mk2 Golf GTi rear end.

Richard produced a little 'points of interest along the way' document but fear of losing my way and hyperopia meant I didn't have much time to look. We hope we will be able to put the route up on the website in the local routes section, as it is a perfect drive for exploring in your classic on a summers day.

Through the wonders of technology I have managed to produce a map of where my car actually went which was fairly close to the correct route.



When we all regrouped at the Reelig Glen car park, there was a lot of heartfelt thanks for a great evening out.

I wasn't going to make this evening myself due to work commitments but a last minute change meant I could, though I hadn't fixed the Beetle yet (see last month!) and I turned up in my emerging classic Ford Focus Mk1. And what did I learn? Emerging classic my a... posterior. You know when you're driving you classic because you feel good driving it, chuffed with it and enjoying the odd look or wave from a passer by. It's nice. As six of us drove past a pedestrian that waved at us all even me, ugh. "You're a fraud Pearson," I thought. Though maybe in another ten years, if it lasts that long.

I have to tip my hat to Zack and Ian Beaton who navigated most of the route by virtue of being alternately at the front, both without a passenger with impressive accuracy. I don't know if they felt the pressure but it was only respect coming from my drivers seat.



We enjoyed the back roads of the Aird so much many of us continued our journey on lesser known routes until the A862 was the only option back into town.

Thanks Richard!

Cars and Coffee

It was another great morning at CARS AND COFFEE - INVERNESS, despite the weather trying to dampen our spirits at times. The craic was good and it was nice to see the usual eclectic mix in the car park. There were plenty of regular visitors plus a good number of interesting new motors to welcome.

Here are some pictures from Jim Mackay and excerpts from the social media chat, and idea stolen from a popular classic magazine.

Highland Classic Car Hire: Looks like a great turnout



CnC: Yes it was a good morning.

Fiona: I didn't take the mini out today because of the rain- but I went a long drive last night and cross fingers for a dry day next time!

CnC I managed to polish my Mini and give it a dose of ceramic coating so the rain just beaded off and two minutes with a towel dried it once back in the garage.



Fiona: My doors leak!

Paul: We're the same gotta be bone dry and sunny for us.

Alastair: Great event , it was the first one for me and my mate , some lovely cars and friendly people we will be at another one in the future . The 2 TVR s"



Ken: This was the first time I have attended with my newly acquired Triumph and thoroughly enjoyed it and looking forward to the next Cars and Coffee in June.

CnC: Glad you enjoyed it, look forward to seeing you again



Out and About

In the Longman, at MOT time, a Rover P6 V8 and a tasty looking Nissan 200SX.

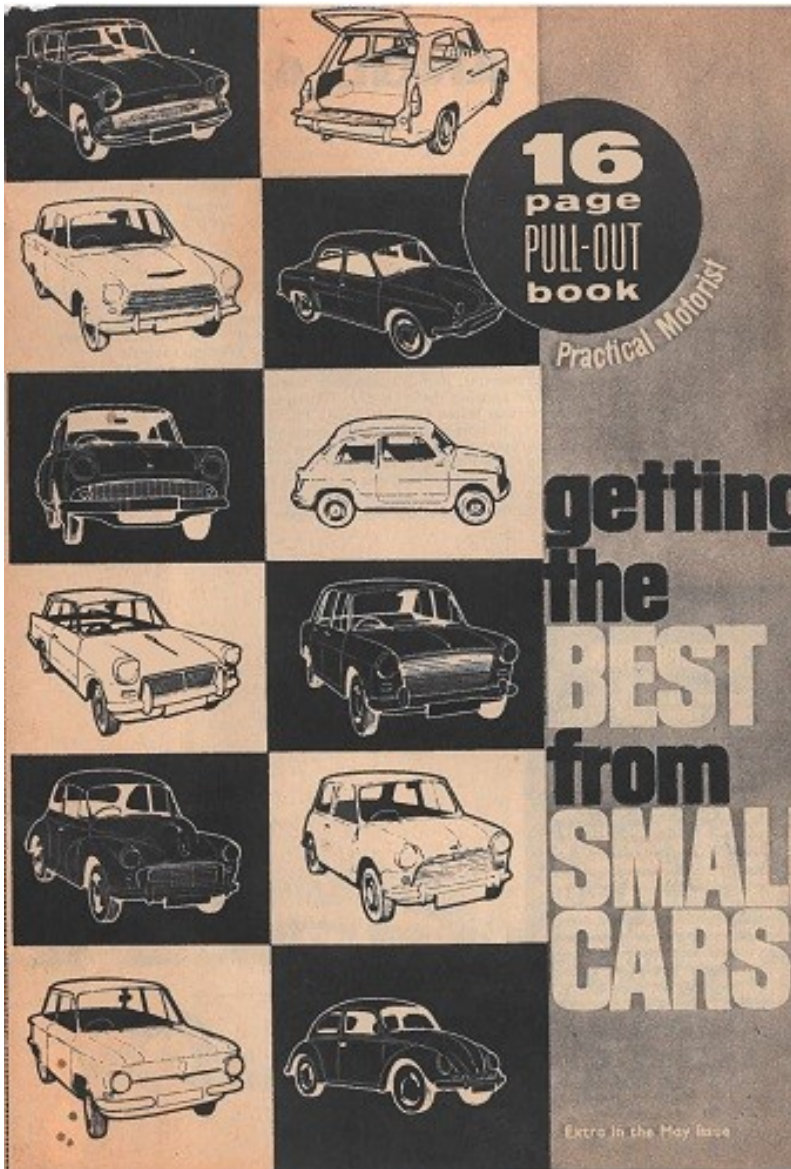


And on the 40 minute walk to work, this interesting NAAFI van.



And a couple of (probably) holiday makers coming out of the Mercure hotel. As per usual, the Stag V8 sounded great.

getting the **BEST** from **SMALL CARS**



I've found a new retro publication for your enjoyment.

It's a supplement from Practical Motorist and compares small cars of the era.

It's perhaps surprising how technically superior the Morris 1100 is, though it's not the most iconic car with hindsight.

I'll try and publish more excerpts in the coming months.

Fold along this edge and cut along top edge

Acceleration and maximum SPEED comparison										
time in seconds	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	Max. speed
ANGLIA 105E		30				60				75.5 mph
A40 Mk. 2 948cc		30				60				75 mph
1098cc		30			60					80 mph
CORTINA		30			60					78.9 mph
DAUPHINE		30						60		67.5 mph
D.K.W. JUNIOR		30					60			75 mph
FIAT 600 D		30						60		63 mph
HERALD 1200		30				60				74 mph
MORRIS 1100		30			60					78.5 mph
MORRIS 1000		30				60				70.8 mph
MINI-MINOR		30				60				69.8 mph
N.S.U. PRINZ 4		30					60			70 mph
VW 1200		30				60				71.5 mph

time in seconds 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Max. speed

Practical Motorist at-a-glance chart

Inverness Classic Vehicle Show

2023

As I write I'm sheltering in my Sierra as the rain started at around 13:00. I'm parked in Upper Church Street which is a prime position but I'm thinking of skipping the parade because although the old Ford looks shiny, she has an electrical gremlin which causes the engine to hesitate and mis-fire. I couldn't face the embarrassment of breaking down mid parade, and slow driving is when it's worse.

So earlier today I was guided to my spot by the BID marshal, and for the first 45 minutes, didn't get more than 20 metres from my spot. I met a man (Brian I think) with an immaculate red TR6. "Have you got any other classics?" "Yes a Mini van a



Mini Traveller, A 1275 Cooper S, and a pick-up which I have controversially modified—it has a tilting bed!"

Brian and his wife are from Krikaldy and were visiting Inverness on year and stumbled on the show, and he has come every year since.

Down at lower Church Street there was a Mini with a Perth and Kinross flag, another visitor from Perth this time. I wondered if they new my brother in law's neighbour in Stanley who heads up the Mini Cooper Register. He didn't but we got round to talking about spray painting as his Mini was recently done and I picked up a lot of good tips.

As the morning progressed the streets filled up and there was a real buzz about the place. It was great seeing youngsters - even with ages in single digits, enthusing about classic with genuine joy. I've said it before but it's worth repeating, it's a great free day out for families, and great for footfall. Even if you don't spend much money, you are slowly walking down the street discovering or remembering shops and cafes. I'd had my first visit to the Victorian Market Food Court, which looked brilliant I particularly liked Salt'n'Fire. Of course this is why BID run the car show.





There are simply too many pictures to fit into the newsletter so I'm just including my personal favourites. There are pictures all over the internet and social media. My overall favourite was this Vauxhall Velox, in remarkable unrestored condition.



It's a 1961 Vauxhall Velox PA 2651cc straight six. I think it looks great.



It's not all about cars of course. And the military vehicles get a good bit of attention.





I believe this is the same Austin Somerset I reported on for Drive It Day. It's a 1954 car and the model is regarded as the last true Austin as it was designed just before the formation of BMC and produced between 1952 and 1954.

It has a 1200cc engine derived a K2 four litre truck engine.



And here's a perfect Prefect. Another jewel in the show. I particularly like the shape of the grille.

A late arrival to the show was this Citroen Traction Avante which is the one featured in Bangers and Cash. It belongs to the Mac-

kenzie family from Kiltarlity. I Googled it to remind myself about it and was presented with our club newsletter of November 2022. Talk about full circle. Anyway an expert (left in picture) says it's a Slough Car and you can tell by the wooden dashboard and trim levels seat leather, Smiths gauges, and 12V electrics. Oh and the right hand drive. 50% of the car parts had to be sourced in the UK to avoid import duty? Does that sound familiar in 2023 with the recent news about electric car manufacturers and battery supply?



So all in all a good day with spirits only slightly dampened by the rain. Numbers seemed down on previous years but similar to last year, possibly due to a similar amount of no shows. I'm told the parade went well with our man on the mic, Miles, who is now a minor celebrity and agents are lining up to book him for "I'm a Jungle, Drive Me Out of Here" and other TV programmes. We know he can cope with the soaking wet while still talking challenge.

Bring your vehicle to the Gairloch Gathering

*Established Classic? Future Classic? All
welcome! Cars / Commercial / Bikes*

Saturday July **1st**
Gairloch Sands Campsite
(Meet at Gairloch Pier, 11.30 am)



Contact: Douglas Gibson

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douglasg@burach.org.uk

**GAIRLOCH
HIGHLAND
GATHERING**

Friday
30th June
&
Saturday
1st July

FRIDAY 30TH JUNE –

**FAMILY CEILIDH IN THE
BIG GREEN SHED**

SATURDAY 1ST JULY

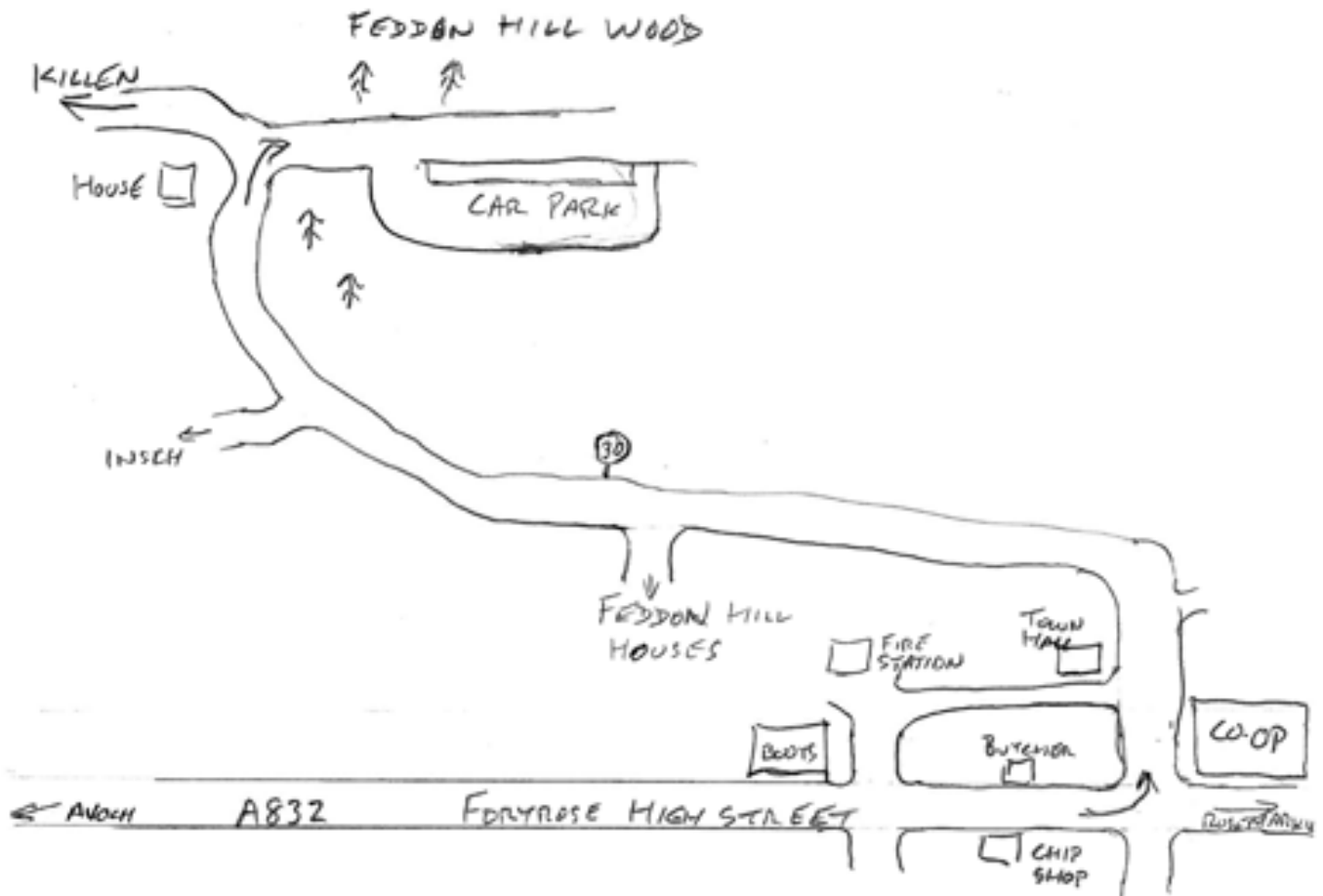
RIDERS OF THE STORM - DRAKES OF HAZARD - MAGICIAN - PET PARADE -
COUNTRY DANCERS - HILL RACE - 5 A SIDE FOOTBALL - THE TEA SHED -
TASTY CATERING VANS - CRAFT STALLS - CHILDRENS GAMES -
AND LOTS MORE TO BE CONFIRMED

**BIG GREEN SHED DANCE
TRAIL WEST – RHUVAAL**

Three polaroid-style photographs are shown at the bottom. The left one shows a group of people dancing in a large hall. The middle one shows a colorful signpost with various icons and text. The right one shows a large crowd of people gathered outdoors on a grassy field.

*subject to licensing

N.B. If you wish to join the Tain club stand please inform Miles Vincent.



HCMC Events

Club Night

1st Jun 2023 7:30pm Visit to Feddon Hill Wood Meet at the car park shown on the map above.

Cars and Coffee

11th Jun 2023 Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness. 10am-12noon. A Quiet Social Gathering of (pre-2000) Classics plus interesting Sportscars, Supercars & Bikes.