

CLASSIC SCENE



July 2008

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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.

Archivist

Ranald Smith

The club has an extensive archive of information relating to all aspects of classic car ownership including technical advice etc. To access this, please contact the archivist, Ranald Smith, at Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, Inverness IV2 3NG
Tel: 01463 236459
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Cover picture

*A rare 1959 1468cc Peugeot 403 seen
at the recent Tain Rally*

THE CHAIRMAN'S BIT

I wasn't able to make last month's meeting but according to feedback it was a well attended and interesting visit. Some reports suggest that the RNLI spend more time saving people from themselves falling off the Kessock Bridge than those in peril on the sea! Those who weren't there will also like to know that the club has donated £50.00 to the RNLI.

I've barely had the TVR out in the last few weeks resulting in a fine covering of dust and swallow droppings. I've been helping a friend doing some drainage work so my main modes of transport have been a dumper truck and a roller (the only roller I'll probably ever drive). It's quite a novelty for a couple of days but after a fortnight my bones are rattling even when I walk! On the subject of TVR it was announced a couple of weeks ago that the founder TreVoR Wilkinson had passed away



aged 85. He was Patron of the owners club and still attended some of the national events as recently as last year.

Finally I would like to welcome new member Derek Glasgow to the club. Derek lives in Inverness and owns a Lotus Excel. We look forward to seeing you at future events.

See you all on the run on July 3rd.

Michael

This Months Meeting

Thursday 3rd July at 7.30pm

Meet at Canal Park, Tomnahurich for a run to the
Tomich Hotel, Cannich

EDITORIAL

Hello,

Apologies for the lateness of this issue, but I only just got back from my 'continental tour' on Saturday night. I was joined in the Ardennes region of Belgium by over 100 Citroen specials from all over Europe and were blessed with great weather for the entire week. Highlights included a tour around the Spa Francorchamp circuit and museum at Stavelot - pictures in the next issue.



The weekend before I set off, I braved the forecast rain and went to the inaugural Tain Rally. Despite getting soaked on the journey, there was a good mix of vehicles there and a lot of our club members were spotted in various 'official' roles. I suspect that this event was a success and will grow over the forthcoming years.

family commitments, I won't be going this year (payback for 10 days in Belgium), but will be making every effort to go to the Historic Wheels Brodie Castle run in August.

If you don't see me at the monthly meetings, you can write to me at the address inside the front cover, or email me direct.

The next main event this month is the Forres Theme Day. I only hope that the weather is as good as it was last year. Unfortunately, due to

Callum



Local Events Diary

Here are some details of local events that may be of interest to our members

July

12th/13th Scottish Transport Extravaganza at Glamis Castle
13th Forres Theme Day

August

3rd Moray Muscle Show
10th Historic Wheels Rally—Brodie Castle
23rd/24th Auto Spirit—Culzean Castle
30th Fortrose Fun Day
31st The Thirteenth Duff House Vintage and Classis Car Day. D.A.Wilson e-mail:
info@wilsondefence.com Tel.01261 819831 Entry Form and Fee deadline 1st
July.

September

6th Dingwall Street Fair
7th Motor Mania—Grantown on Spey
20th/21st Selkirk Rally
tba Laigh o' Moray Vintage Association's rally and family fun day at Inchkeil
Steading, Roseisle. Tel Danny Duncan 01667 455078 or Gordon MacKenzie
01343 541665
27th/28th Fraserburgh East to West Commercial Run

If you notice any errors or omissions, please let the editor know.



Toms ringside transport at the recent Tain Rally

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir/Madam,

I feel compelled to contact you regarding an advertisement that you featured in a recent issue of Classic Scene.

There I was last Saturday afternoon, at a loss for what to do that evening, when I remembered The Midsunner Gig. Usually a DVD is the night's entertainment but now I was faced with a choice Will Smith or Ranald Smith! The wife chose Will but I thought I'd go and support Ranald (I didn't intend being the warm up support but there was that speaker cable, the small child and the waitress with the full tray of drinks!)

I can honestly say that it was the "Gig of The Year" (well it's the only one I've been to this year) and this could be seen by the fact that it was a "Sell Out" (or at least they had run out of seats by the time I arrived).

I now understand why Ranald sometimes runs out of time to finish all his ongoing projects, he is obviously a busy man of many talents, even having to multi-task in bed at night by listening to Radio Scotland to gather more singing material for these such performances while doing some light car book reading to keep up with that hobby (apparently reading heavy car books wakes him up when he dozes off and they crack him on the nose, he says.). Although I have to say that Ranald must cry himself to sleep fairly regularly as most of the lyrical content was fairly suicidal but I think that's just Folk Music for you.



This was a great evening obviously enjoyed by the whole audience. I would even go as far as to say that I feel like I have witnessed one of the great musical pairings such as Simon and Garfunkel; however that could be Art Simon and Paul Garfunkel!

Mr, Editor, I believe that this duo should be booked immediately for this year's Club Xmas Dinner as I think they could go far and we do not want to miss out (the more we chip in the further they may go!)

I am off to see Dolly Parton next weekend in Manchester. She now has a lot to live up to and I am thoroughly looking forward to being entertained by another great pair.

Name and Address Supplied but Withheld.

FORTROSE CLASSIC CAR RALLY and TOUR

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST 2008

You are invited to attend the sixth running of this popular event which forms part of the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Fun Day. The event takes place in the King George V Playing Field which is situated within the historic Royal Burgh of Fortrose.

You should aim to arrive from 11.00 to 11.30am for tea/coffee following which you will have the option to take part in a short (about 25 miles) Classic Drive through some of the Black Isle's most attractive countryside. The tour will start at noon and return to Fortrose around 1.15pm.

The format of this event has proved most popular with enthusiasts who enjoy using their classic vehicles and meeting up with like minded enthusiasts. Although we do not provide prizes for the best turned out vehicles at our event, we will be presenting the Stewart Hiddleston Daimler Chauffeur Hire Long Haul Award to the owner of the vehicle which has been driven furthest in order to attend our event.

To reserve your place please complete the attached tear off slip and return it to the address shown. Once again we look forward to meeting up with you on the day.

Contacts:

John Mackenzie 01381 621180, Chris Silver 01381 621211,
Alex Mann 01381 620274 or John Eastwood 01381 620897

I/We would like to attend the Fortrose Classic Car Rally on
30th August 2008.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Vehicle:

Tel:

Please return to: J. Mackenzie, 1 Greengates Place, Fortrose, Ross-shire. IV10 8RY

MILES'S MEANDERINGS

I thought the June club night at the RNLI Station in Kessock was a great success and was left much wiser to and maybe slightly in awe of what these guys volunteer to do. The RNLI Crew Members thoroughly enjoyed our visit and were delighted to see so many Classic Cars in attendance. (Now we just need to remember to sign the cheque this time so they can have their much deserved donation!)



Another success story this month was the Tain Car Show. I managed to roll up at about midday with the Mini stuffed full of wife and kids (they had no choice, it was Father's Day!) and enjoyed a relatively dry couple of hours surveying the vehicular offerings on display. It was greatly helped by the fact that there was plenty of entertainment to amuse the kids and a tea tent for the wife. (Fortrose Community Council take note.)

There seemed to be a good attendance by our members and even participation in the Judging (you didn't have to look quite so reluctant Donald, you had Club Stands and Military Vehicles, at least it wasn't the Bicycles!). I was amused though by the "Stealth Judging" of Chris and John, i.e. minus a Hi-Vis Waistcoat. It was all going fine until they found the car belonging to Competitor No.120 locked and Tom had to announce the problem to the field, so then we knew exactly where you were.

Recognition must go to Tom, as ever, for a sterling job on the mike (and for refraining from taking the piss too badly out of the two blokes acting like Hamsters on their homemade exercise wheel in the centre of the Ring. Well at least until their second performance anyway!).

So, where have I been driving this month?

Ben Armine Lodge, that's where. Now there's a route for you. Shame you're not allowed past the bottom of the drive though! Well, I say drive it's more of an 8 mile long Forestry track into the hills beyond Scibberscross, behind Golspie.

Over the years this way in has deteriorated dramatically due to its heavy Logging Lorry use and has been washed away in floods on more than one occasion. There are rocks the size of house bricks and potholes the size of toddlers paddling pools. Top speed up here is about 5mph.

Even though, this road has seen the demise of one Ford Transit exhaust system, the spare wheel and holder from a Toyota Hi-Ace (sensibly mounted under the rear end of the van) and, this year the plastic (I ask you!) engine belly protection tray from my Renault Trafic.

As I said, normally you have to crawl up the road to Ben Armine or you risk rattling loose your fillings, let alone dislodging all the paperwork strategically stacked across the dashboard, so imagine my delight this year when I discovered that it had been resurfaced with a copious layer of sand allowing a much faster, dare I say it, "rallyesque" attack on the hill!

Copiously resurfaced, remember, except for the other side of the humongous drop which I hit at over 40mph! It wasn't so much the speed at which I was travelling or in fact the height of the drop that I descended which caused the damage.....it was the bloody great boulder protruding through the surface of my landing zone that did for the protection tray! Although it did live up to it's name and protected.

It was actually only later when approaching the front of my van on foot, having completed the extinguisher service in the Lodge (I do do some work you know) that I noticed the damage underneath. It did, though explain the sudden reduction in performance from the van, after the incident, which I had put down to deeper sand. The tray was acting as a Snow Plough! (Or should that be Sand Plough).

Anyway, after the removal of the only three remaining bolts the Sand Plough was it self removed and performance reinstated for the return leg of the journey, but not before I had reaped even more havoc.

Do you remember the advert where the chap is waiting for his date to finish getting ready and he is playing with her small dog in the living room of her flat? (Mr. Lorrain-Smith won't know what I'm talking about as he only watches BBC – none of those ITV riffraff on his telly don't you know?!) Anyway, this bloke gets more and more frustrated with the little pooch that won't leave him alone and so he picks up the poor thing's favourite toy ball and just as the girl appears from the bedroom he bounces the ball off the floor and promptly out of the window....rapidly followed by the small dog!

Well there I am working away when the keeper's terrier arrives with a stone in its mouth for me to throw for it, so I do. So it brings it back. So I throw it again. So it brings it back again. So I throw it again. So it brings it back again. And so on and so on and so on...By this time the stone is landing in the long grass at the far end of the lawn and I am starting to think that it isn't actually finding my stone but has a little stash of stones that all look the same, so I decided to really test him.

Just as the Keeper appeared around the corner to check on my progress I managed to unleash an almighty over arm torpedo of a throw that Botham would have been proud of and the stone rocketed into the distance over the hillock of grass beyond the lawn, followed at high speed by his Terrier!

Turning to the Keeper to tell him what a fun little dog he had I caught his eye precisely at the moment that the sound of an enormous "SPLASH" reached us from beyond the grassy horizon.

Then, after an eternally long silence, there was heard a frantic, wet scrabbling noise and eventually a rather out of breath and bedraggled Terrier emerged from the undergrowth beyond the lawn, deposited a dripping stone on the ground in front of me and collapsed panting at the feet of his Master!

"You'll have found the burn then," he said.

Miles

P.S. New project alert, see photo above!

Highland Heaps

Restoration projects spotted in and around the Highlands.
(Apologies if your 'pride and joy' is featured here!)



Sad end to another Jag



Escort Anyone?



Lochinver Sceptre

If you're brave enough to want to rescue one these 'heaps', contact the editor for more info

Some of the participants of Drive It Day 2008

