

CLASSIC SCENE



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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.

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COVER PICTURE

CHAIR BITTY JULY 2014

Our little mystery run would have been excellent, if it hadn't been for 1 small factor - the weather. Thick fog blanketed most of our route, causing one of our members to abandon the run - I gather that the headlights on his classic are more like candles than actual lights. However, about 12 of us braved the weather and enjoyed a jolly



good run over the Black Isle, taking in such sights as: lots of new build houses; a sizeable puddle of water which needed fording; an awful road surface just at the Fairy Glen and missing the turn-off to the car park at the station hotel in Avoch and ending up parking at the cemetery a few yards up the road.

Our wee Smart has had a hard time in the last few weeks. Not a week before the mist-ery run, the poor wee thing point blank refuses to start, lighting up the dashboard like some christmas tree. It didn't take Alice much time to diagnose a very expensive problem with the electronics (SAM unit) when certain terminals on the circuit boards appeared somewhat furry. Smarts at the best of time are known for "seeping" a little water. Fortunately ours has always been very reliable. As the car's windscreen was replaced not so long ago (see April), this was the obvious suspect for water ingress. The installer did come back to review their handiwork and reseal the windscreen. On close inspection and with the aid of an impromptu downpour, the windscreen as a cause remains inconclusive. In the end we bit the bullet and trailered the car to Mercedes to replace the SAM unit. An eye watering bill later and our Smart is back on the road, just in time for the Tain rally.

We had 17 cars surrounding our club's gazebo at the Tain Rally and we needed it. Sunday was another typical Scottish summer day with lots of rain showers. Inside comfortably furnished with a variety of chairs, tables, we all stayed dry, sipping cups of tea/coffee, eating our packed lunches. All in all a fairly civilized way to spend a day. Thanks to Miles for organising our stand – and taking the gazebo!

We took a trip down memory lane at the Keith & Dufftown Railway Association. They had organised a '40's weekend in mid June, complete with Shifty Tony, the black marketeer, Heinz the spy and other assorted characters amusing passengers with their antics. All passengers were issued with ID cards and one poor girl, who hadn't filled in her card properly, got a right old grilling from the "Police & Security Services". The buffet rail car, as always, served gorgeous cakes and scones. The Naafi canteen even served Spam Sandwiches! The next KDRA special is a Teddy Bear Picnic weekend 1-3 August – good day out with kids, grand children (and their teddies)(hint).

Anyway, you will have noticed that last month's magazine was a little bit low on articles. I have said it before and so has our esteemed editor, we need **you** to contribute. This isn't an onerous task, just one short story (300 words will do) once a year from each of you will keep us going to – so get writing!

This month we have another little run lined up for our cars. We meet up at 7.30 outside the North Kessock Hotel for a drive out to Garve. See you there.

Cheers,

Trish

TAIN CLASSIC CAR SHOW





The Editors Monthly Rant



The Classic Car scene is now well underway and the weather has obliged us with a blazing hot sun and not a drop of rain anywhere..... that is except on those days when we got our pride and joy washed and polished only for the heavens to either open or drop down to sea level. And then to annoy us even more by the Monday morning its back to warm and dry. My replacement of the Lancia's front and rear screen rubbers (with a small diversion for a new back screen) seems to have gone well as it hasn't leaked at all. And speaking of leaks, my rust prevention system, the steering box, will be replaced over the winter months with a newer box with fresh seals in place.

Changing the subject slightly, today, Wednesday 25th, I have given up work completely. Slight pause while wait for the comments about not ever having worked before etc to die down. This now means that over the winter months when the Lancia has been SORN'd I can tackle replacing the front suspension and steering joints. Just to keep me quiet for a few days I will tackle a set of noisy tappets. Could be interesting as the Lancia has a V4 DOHC engine and while I'm doing that Omi-crom Ltd who supply all Lancia parts, now have an electronic ignition system they recommend. At this rate I might have to return to work to pay for the parts. But then again the Government is now paying me three different pensions and the Yeti will be paid for by the New Year, so all you guys and gals out there keep paying your taxes to keep this poor old pensioner off of the dole queue.

Tain Rally 2014

This has been our first time at Tain despite living probably the closest of any of the Club members. There was a certain amount of trepidation, wondering where the Club had been placed on the field, but it turned out to be very good indeed. The Club's event shelter was up before the first of the days rain showers made it's appearance, and it does give the Club some presence when we attend these rallies.

I was surprised when chairs appeared in the shelter as everyone made themselves comfortable, and the chatting began. Eventually 17 cars where parked up around our pitch, right next door was the Mini Club.



Trish and I went for a wander about the field to see the other exhibitors, and were surprised to see a Zurich registered TR6 was sitting there as a late entry, I was kind of hoping he/she would win the longest distance travelled, but it turned out that late entries didn't count. Would have been difficult to beat that distance.



There was quite an international feel, as I ended up speaking to some Dutch people who had seen the signs and decided to stop and come to the show.

I was surprised and delighted to see a number of cars I remember from years gone bye, getting an outing to the Show,

some rarities and some well known, Charlie Munro's Ferrari for example.

There was plenty to do, but the weather did put quite a damper on the event and wouldn't be surprised if the numbers were down on last year.



Nice to see Tom doing his commentary bit at the show and he 'persuaded' Trish to come and present the prizes to the winners, some of whom really looked forward to this!



To sum up a good day even though the Club didn't win a prize, next year? Thanks to everyone who came especially Miles for his organisational skills and those who help put up and dismantled the rather damp shelter.



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