

CLASSIC SCENE



August 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
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Cover picture

*A 1939 1172cc Morgan three-wheeler
seen on my continental travels*

THE CHAIRMAN'S BIT

The Chairman's Bit

Last months run was enjoyed by everyone present – except me. As I arrived at the meeting point at Tomnahurich my charging light came on. After poking and playing about under the bonnet to no avail and fearing that something tragic was about to happen to the dynamo I decided to bail out of the run and take the coward's path back home. It had also started raining. Then as I drove through Beaulieu gently mopping the water up as it entered around the windscreen the light went out and the ammeter went plus. Great. I have still found nothing wrong and have a horrible feeling that this one is going to haunt me. The August meeting is another run so we will soon find out!

I have been contacted by a David Leigh who will be shortly embarking on a thousand mile round trip to John o' Groats in a 1927 Austin 7 Chummy. The Austin used to belong to his wife who recently died of cancer and he is doing the trip to raise funds for The Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign. He will be in Inverness on Sunday August 10th but as this coincides



with the Historic Wheels meeting at Brodie Castle I have suggested that he heads for that instead. Look out for him if you are there and go and say hello, he will be the guy looking totally knackered!

There are 2 new members to welcome this month – Stuart Kennedy from Inverness who has a 1970 Triumph Herald 13/60 and Steve Humphreys from Wester Balblair who has a 1990 Mazda Eunos roadster. I look forward to meeting you both at future meetings.

Michael

This Months Meeting

Thursday 7th August at 7.30pm

Meet at Town Centre car park, Dingwall for a scenic run via Strathconon to the Achilty Hotel, Contin

EDITORIAL

Hello,

There seems to be a lot happening in the motoring world at this time of year, and there are a number of 'classic' events in the next few weeks. If you haven't signed up for the Fortrose Fun Day, do so now. It's a good day out with a relaxed club atmosphere.

Prior to that, the Historic wheels run takes place on the 10th ending up at Brodie Castle. If the weather's nice, this is worth a visit to see the range and diversity of tin on show.

There's also a Lifescan event on the 20th September to which we've been invited to display our cars. More details on page 7

You may notice a bit of a Bugatti theme this issue. You have the chance to own your very own 'type 37' as detailed on page 10.

My own car started playing up in Belgium with a worn speedo cable leaving me guessing at my



speed for the entire week. I also started popping and banging far more than usual on the overrun and have been getting more than familiar with the inner workings of my Solex twin-choke carb ever since!

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.

Callum



Local Events Diary

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

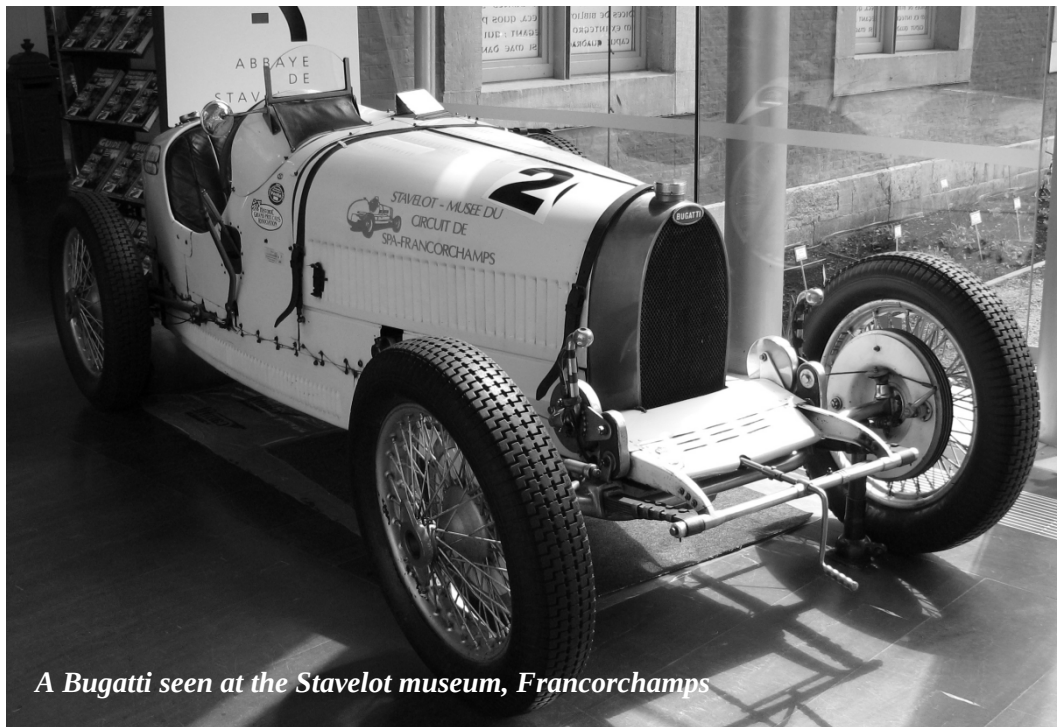
August

- 3rd Moray Muscle Show
- 10th Historic Wheels Rally—Brodie Castle
- 16th Highland Strength Festival—Tore. See www.highlandstrengthfestival.co.uk
- 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—Great Feil Maree
- 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.



A Bugatti seen at the Stavelot museum, Francorchamps

THE BO'NESS MOTOR MUSEUM

Yes, I didn't know it existed either. Bo'ness definitely fits into the "wear the fox hat" category, but I can enlighten you. It is on the south side of the Firth of Forth, about 15 miles from Edinburgh, not far from Grangemouth.



The museum was one of those serendipitous finds that are so enjoyable because you just stumble over them. Jane and I were having a few days in the area. I'd booked the Inchyra Grange Hotel, more or less with a pin from a brochure. It's an old country manor house that has gradually been encroached upon by the town. At the front it maintains the illusion. A long drive sweeps up to the hotel with large lawns; a good and popular location for a wedding it seems. However, if you peek round the corner, there is Grangemouth refinery five hundred yards away! Inside it's very nice and we used it as a base to explore the area.



We first paid a visit to Linlithgow Palace. I'm

a life member of Historic Scotland and get into these things for free, although I don't actually use the privilege a lot these days. I presented my card to the lady on the desk, only to be informed that it was free anyway because of a special promotion. Something about the mean Scotsman in me resents the fact that everyone else is getting in for free when it should only be card holders.



We then moved on to Bo'ness. It's a town of two halves. The lower half by the firth is very old with some very unusual buildings. The upper half is a sort of sixties council scheme which looks as though the social club features activities like wife beating classes..... but I digress.

Then I noticed a sign for the museum. From the outside it looks very small, and inside it actually is small. Having said that it's a nice size to while away a couple of hours. Some of the big museums have so much stuff that you get to the stage that your feet and your brain hurt. Consequently you end up giving a cursory glance to something rare and exotic. Bo'ness features a lot of cars with a James Bond theme. Cars that have either been in a film, or in a promotion for one, so it has several Astons and a Lotus Excel. There is also a fair bit of sixties metal; a Stag in *that* orange, a Harry Potter 105E Anglia, a Mk1 XJ6, Mk 2 Jag, and the like. Definitely worth a look..

Bryan



The club has been invited to take part in a fun day event that Lifescan are holding for their employees and families which will take place on The Black Isle Showground on Saturday 20th September.

They would like 20 classic cars to be on display for visitors to look at. Other activities taking place include laser clay pigeon shooting, archery, Velcro wall, paintballing, showcases of local community groups, 5 a side football, a range of free rides, and a mini craft and food fare.

Lifescan will provide 2 lunch vouchers per car and those who will want to bring children there is a limit of driver plus 1 adult and 2 children per car (this is the same limit as Lifescan are applying to their own employees).

As we are limited to 20 vehicles we will have to apply a first come first served for entries.

Contact Callum (01462 231787) if you're interested in attending.



ME AND MY CAR

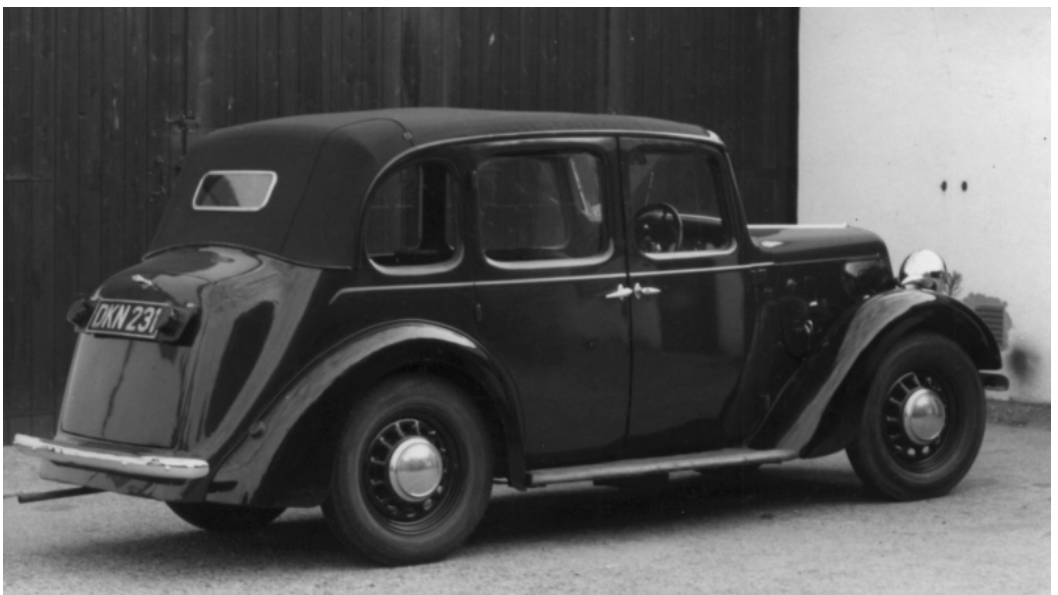
This month's car is Liz Bligh's 1936 Austin 10 Conway Cabriolet. Purchased from new by her Grandfather, Mr Hall, at the end of 1936, the car was sold to him by Burton & Deakin's Garage in Orpington, Kent for the princely sum of £182.10s.0d.

Powered by a 1125cc 4 cylinder side-valve engine with a 4-speed manual transmission, this car could reach a top speed of 60 mph.



Mr Hall never cleaned the car, but used it regularly until his death in 1963. He believed that the grime offered excellent protection against the elements. This theory also ensured that the protective surface on the paint was not worn away. Could this explain the car's remarkable state of preservation? It is without doubt that his heavy smoking contributed to the preservation of the interior, the smoky environment ensuring a moth-free zone!

Introduced in April 1932, the Austin 10 admirably filled the gap between the 7hp range and the recently introduced Light 12/6. Instantly well received, the

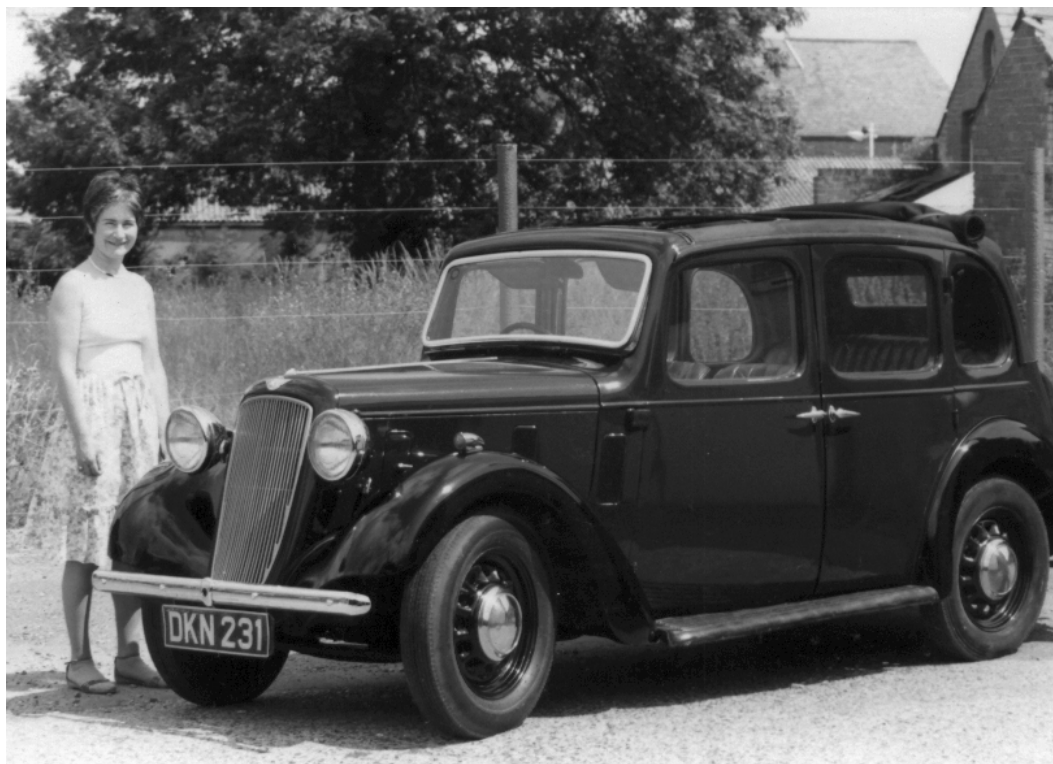


'10' went on to become a best-seller and was progressively developed with a model of this horsepower rating being a mainstay in Austin catalogues until 1947.

August 1936 was to see the introduction of the new Cambridge Series, which was to take Austin years ahead virtually overnight. With styling very much in the trans-Atlantic idiom, this new model was also available as a cabriolet version, designated 'Conway'. Whereas the earlier cabriolet had been a two-door design, the new car was in profile identical to the Cambridge saloon and consequently interior accommodation was far lighter and airier, with minimal blind spots.

Liz inherited the car and continued to run it until 1989 when it went off the road. It is currently undergoing a restoration with a view to getting it back on the road soon

Today, the Conway Cabriolet is amongst the rarest of Austin's open models, with only a small number of survivors recorded. An extremely attractive and practical pre-war family car, the Austin 10 benefits from enthusiastic club support and good spares availability.



Onyx Sportscars EB Type 37

Onyx Sports cars of Grimsby are offering a self-builder the chance to own a very accurate reproduction of a Bugatti type 37.

The EB Type 37 replica is built on a reproduction twin-rail chassis and is the same size and scale of the original car. Utilising quarter elliptical leaf springs on the back axle and semi-elliptical spring on the bespoke front beam axle, this car reproduces the ride of the original 'bug'



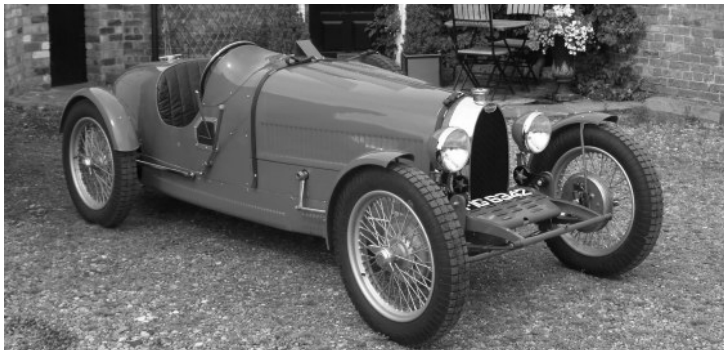
Power comes from a Rover K series engine. In 1400cc single overhead cam form, its all alloy construction is very 'Ettore' and it produces similar power to the original '37' unit. The gearbox is an all alloy 4 speed unit from an MG Midget but the gearchange lies outside the bodywork alongside the handbrake - just like the original. Steering is traditional drop-link with drum brakes all round.

Prices:

- CHASSIS PACKAGE- £7486.94
- CHASSIS SUPPLEMENTARY PACKAGE - £1215.87
- BRAKE PACKAGE - £2423.35
- STEERING & WHEEL PACKAGE - £3180.48
- BODY WORK PACKAGE - £5970.84

This may seem expensive, but compared to an original type 37....

More details can be found at: <http://www.onyxsportscars.co.uk/>



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 MEANDERINGS - MOTORHOME MONETARY MAYHEM

“ITEM”

“COST”

2 Week Family Motorhoming Holiday.

2 Weeks.

300 miles round Scotland’s highways and byways (@45mph approx).

£200 Diesel (+£25“essentials” from BP shop)

Motorhome Pitch (@45 degree angle, 3ft from neighbour causing confusion as to who’s children you are shouting at for being noisy after lights out).

12 Nights @ £17 average. (Depends on angle of Pitch)

Electric hook up (just to power T.V @ 6am for CBeebies).

£2per night.

Deposit for Toilet/Shower Block Key - to allow choice between using own Porta-Potti or trudging 500yds across wet grass to Toilet Block (after returning 500yds for forgotten Key).

£10 + Joy of following aged female in her pj’s across park then hearing her take shower on other side of plywood partition!

Deposit for Chemical Toilet Disposal Sluice (you try convincing a 3 year old and 7 year old to leave enough time to trudge 500yds across wet grass when necessary!).

£10 (and the rule was no No.2’s!).

Pitch next to Play Park to keep children happy and in view.

View of All Happy Children!

Saturday Family of Four Ticket to the 34th Scottish Transport Extravaganza @ Glamis Castle.

£22

***FREE* Parking in 1ft. of mud during Fife monsoon season.**

£8 Jet Wash

Sunday Family of Four Ticket to the 34th Scottish Transport Extravaganza (?????) at Glamis Castle. **Another £22 (no“2 Day” Ticket Iain!)**

Souvenir Programme (look out for it at the annual HCMC Auction!) **£1 Very reasonable.**

Queuing for 45 minutes in the shade (!) during the only sunshine for 3x vanilla cones (not 99's) and 2x bottles of water. **£6.50 Not very reasonable.**

5x losing Raffle Tickets for a green 1996 MG MGF that to be quite honest had seen better days judging by the Hammerited sills! **£5**

5 hours of scouring “150 Trade & Auto(Crap)jumble Stands” for parts, to only find one interior light (of dubious fit). You’d have thought one of the 16 Marina owners in attendance might have needed one of the four o/s front wings on offer. They were the only things of any quality there! **£2**

Finding a “Budgie” my 1st Bicycle. **Heartening**

Coming home to an Online Lottery Winner* Notification E-mail!*£10! **Heart Stopping**

Coming Home to my own Toilet! **PRICELESS!**



Miles

Highland Heaps

Restoration projects spotted in and around the Highlands.





6-cyl Rover P5 slowly sinking into a Black Isle swamp



Another unidentified swamp monster

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

Some of the cars at the recent Tain Rally

