

CLASSIC SCENE

AUGUST 2016



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The club has an extensive archive of information relating to all aspects of classic car ownership. To access this please contact Ranald Smith, at Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, Inverness IV2 3NG. 01463 236459
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CLASSIC SCENE

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

Ford Model T seen at the Flying Legends Airshow Duxford.

JOHN SILVER



I am sorry to intimate the death of my brother, John, on 8th June as a result of complications after a fall. He had been suffering from Parkinson's Disease.

John was a member of the Club for many years but did not attend very often since he lived in Edinburgh. However, he greatly enjoyed his visits when he was here and also continued to take an interest in the Club through the newsletter.

John was a Quantity Surveyor by profession but was always keen on cars and became a very competent mechanic to the extent that he developed a very busy and lucrative side-line in maintaining cars for family, friends and others.

He particularly liked to visit us here on the Black Isle because, early in his career, he worked for the Company which built the extension to Fortrose Academy and other projects around Inverness. He enjoyed renewing an acquaintance with the Munlochy Hotel which he and his colleagues regularly visited on their way back to digs in Inverness!

On one of his last visits, he was delighted to be able to go for a run in John Mackenzie's Austin 7 Special.
Chris Silver.

July Monthly Meeting

The Treasure Hunt

What is a treasure hunt? In a car? I've never done one before so I had no idea what to expect other than to pair up and turn up. I chose my navigator carefully and headed to the Thursday night meet at the Culbokie Football Field on the east side of the village.

On arrival Tom McCallum was handing out clue sheets one at a time as we set off at about 5 minute intervals. I tried to explain I'd never done one of these before but all Tom could advise was get in the car and read the sheet! Worst case, come back to the Culbockie Inn.

There were about 12 cars if I remember correctly and Navigator David and I left about half way down the running order. Once under way, it became a bit more obvious what to we had to do. There were slightly cryptic directions which made more sense when you matched up with what was in front of you and there were 40 'clues' to answer based on things you saw like house names and road signs. Now here is where I confess, Navigator David is a stage rally navigator and born and bred in the Black Isle, and while his route clue answering and navigation were excellent, no-one prepared him for writing down the answers in a bouncy Mini. We wondered how comfortable Mark and Helen would be in their Jag, perhaps effortlessly scripting their answers from a quill and ink pot?

We caught up with Trish and Alice and passed them at Resolis Memorial Hall (When was it built?) and passed the 205 GTi at the old folks home (What kind of people live here?) We caught up with Callum's Dyane on the Eathie road (When can you get in to Rosemarkie transmitter?) and he was making rapid progress, with some interesting body roll. No chance of getting past him then. As I'm enjoying tailing the Dyane, David is muttering "Turn left at the Bull. What Bull? STOP!! Left here!" There was a bull sign at the head of a side road and oh so easy to miss. Anyone who had a shot of the Mini at 'Drive each other's cars' night and thought it's brakes were 'interesting' would be surprised to see the Mini stopping on a 'dime' with a screech and a wee puff of Japan's finest rubber. You have to press the pedal *very* hard but it does stop well.

Having spotted the bull, we were on an interesting wee road that takes you down into Fortrose via probably the steepest road in the Black Isle. We popped back up the hill from Fortrose and past Feddon Hill, turning left onto a less travelled road to the back of Avoch. The views from this road were amazing. Heading towards Killen we passed Navigator David's house and he started answering clues before we got there and adding supplementary information like who lived in the house and who had lived there before that. Taking a local isn't cheating now, is it?

Passing through Killen we think we saw Zack behind a house called Shelby, apparently owned by a Hot Rod enthusiast. Turning right took us passed a wee stone monument (clue), Mount Eagle transmitter and back to the Culbokie Inn for another clue, the finish and a score tally up.

Sure enough we were first back. (It was a race wasn't it?) And we managed to get 38 out of 40 clues. The boxes with lettuces weren't the boxes meant, and the member's house wasn't a member of the club I knew.

Once everyone was back there was a wee prize giving and the ladies in the 205 GTi (Sorry I didn't catch your names) took the prize with 38 out of 40, although we claimed victory on account of having the same score and getting back first, however they perhaps had the moral victory of having to work all the clues out for themselves as they didn't have Navigator David as a secret weapon. In the end of course we were all winners as we had great fun and travelled down interesting wee roads to interesting wee places. And yes, Helen's answers written in the Jag were in immaculate handwriting.

Many thanks to Tom for organising this event. He obviously went to a lot of effort and it was a great success. Now I know what a treasure hunt is. In a car. And I'd do it again.

Calum Pearson (Green Mini)

FOR SALE

1954 Austin Healey 100 body shell. Genuine right hand drive with full documentation. Needs some work. Images don't do it justice. Can deliver locally. No time wasters or tyre kickers need enquire. Sensible offers invited.



CHAIR BITTY AUGUST 2016

It was a lovely evening for the treasure hunt, with I think 12 teams, driving around parts of the Black Isle we had not been before. We are now waiting for a nice weekend to do the route again and give us a bit more time to admire the amazing views and perhaps to do the walk down to the caves. The declared winners (there was a 3 way tie) were the 3 ladies from Dornoch – sorry never got your names. Pipping Alice and me to the wooden spoon was Conrad who heroically did the hunt on his own. In all, there was only 3 points between first and last. Thanks Tom for doing a great job organising the treasure hunt.



This month as you know is another car related challenge in the form of a regularity run, where the object of the game is to arrive at the destination, getting as close as possible to the allowed time & distance set by Brian. If I remember the run from a few years back, you will need a navigator. Another good night out for your wife, kids, neighbours or good friends.

The weather this month, like most months this year, has not been terribly spectacular. The only bit of note was the lightning strike on the morning of the 20th. I was woken just before 4.00am by the thunder rumbling in the distance when out of nowhere, FLASH-BANG. What a fright we got! Sitting straight up in bed, heart racing, what the.....? I've been close to lightning strikes before where it sounds like the sky is being torn apart (i.e just over a second between lightning and thunder), but this was in a totally different league. Once my heart rate had calmed down a bit I had a wander around the house looking out of the windows, but couldn't see anything that suggested it has been struck. A stroll round the village in the evening revealed the strike to a house just 90 meters down the road. A large patch of roof tiles missing and from all accounts substantial damage inside.

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Alice spend a 2 days washing, t-cutting and polishing the Landrover. It is amazing how well the Landie now looks, with the washed-out blue now looking luscious rich transport blue. After all that effort Alice is considering getting the wheels done on the Landrover as they are pretty rusty/tatty. Apparently there is now somebody in Tain who does powder coating. Fortunately we still have the smaller 600 wheels and can put these on when the 750's get redone. But that isn't just yet.

As mentioned this month is the regularity run. We meet up at the Tesco, Holm Mills. Cars will be set off at intervals from around 7.00pm onwards.

See you there and do remember to write a little article about the run for next months magazine.

Trish.

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AUGUST CLUB NIGHT THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST
Regularity Run.

For those of you who haven't participated before, a regularity run is a little bit like a treasure hunt, but it is timed. It is NOT a race however. A set of instructions will guide you along a route and you must average a set speed which will be given to you. Along the way there will be some clues to collect (and mess up your time). Once again, a navigator would be handy but not essential.

The regularity run will start from the Tesco Carpark at Holm Mills (on the Dores Rd). 7.00pm start.

BRYAN MCILWRAITH

THE EDITORS MONTHLY RANT

Trish's close encounter with a lightning strike reminded me of the closest I have ever been to being frazzled. I was still driving Police cars for a living and, late one evening, we were returning to the M11 control room during a summer thunderstorm. It was one of those almost "dry" storms. Very little rain but lots of lightning away in the distance.

We were on an unlit turn around area just gossiping away when there was a tremendous crash and flash of lightning. We both ducked and had a WTF moment. After a few seconds, Alyson, who I was working with said, "Oh Dear that was close." Or something like that. We then realised that we were in a rather good lightning conductor.

The Rover 827 was equipped with **4** radios, a video camera, and a radio based Tracker system and **2**, yes, **2** aerials on the roof! We hot footed it back to the control room and run for cover. Then we found out that the lightning strike was close enough to the control room to blow all of the swipe card security locks, all of the computers had shut down when the surge protectors did their job and most of the motorway cameras had also blown a lot of fuses.

We then had a look at the video recording and as the camera had a very high shutter speed we were able to freeze the playback at the moment that the lightning hit down. Bearing in mind it was late at night and dark but the worlds brightest flash gun had lit up the whole area for miles around. It was like looking at the whole of East London on a bright sunny day. Even Canary Wharf, over 5 miles away was clearly visible!

Seen at a car show (And an air show) in Essex. Little cars with big engines and a crazy jet bike.



A Mini with a big Honda V-Tec engine

Not very clear but a Pedal cycle with a Jet Engine!



Jaguar V12 in a Hot Rod. Made a noise like a RR Merlin in a Spitfire.

The ultimate big engine 2000hp Bristol Hercules in a Hawker Sea Fury



CLUB REGALIA

It's SO easy to equip yourself with your own choice of "HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB" embroidered Regalia. Because it's D.I.Y!

MAKE YOUR CHOICE - PLACE YOUR ORDER - AWAIT YOUR ORDER - COLLECT YOUR ITEM!

Visit the "SIGN CENTRE" AT 33 Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UG
They now hold the pattern for the "HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB" logo and are able to apply it to an extensive range of clothing from T-SHIRTS to SWEATSHIRTS to POLO SHIRTS to HOODIES to SOFTSHELL JACKETS to FLEECEs to CASUAL JACKETS to GILETS to WELL, JUST ABOUT ANYTHING!

Just call into the Sign Centre and discuss your requirements with the friendly Staff, order the item of clothing that you want embroidered and they will do the rest. (They are also happy to embroider an item of your own)

Prices vary from item to item and the price of embroidery may vary between £6 -£10 depending on your choice.

THIS system allows YOU to wear an item best suited to YOUR lifestyle and REMOVES the need for the Club to periodically coordinate orders, take payment and distribute items OR bulk-purchase a generic set of embroidered t-shirts / sweatshirts and then try and sell them to you.

This is not a New System, just a New Supplier.

So pop down to Harbour Road and sort yourself out with a Club T-Shirt / Jumper /Jacket and Show it off at the next Club Night or Car Show!"

Cheers, Miles.

Date

Venue

- 14th Aug 2016** Historic Wheels Rally, Brodie Castle, Forres
Note: NO LATE ENTRIES at Brodie Castle.
Pre-book or Arrive at Start Point.
- 21st Aug 2016** Dunrobin Castle Vintage Car Run & Rally. Entry
Form evelyn@sutherlandstates.com or 01408 633268. Helmsdale
10am. Brora 11am. Embo 12noon. Dornoch 1pm. Dunrobin Castle
2pm.
- 27th Aug 2016** Fortrose & Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Rally
More info from info@fortroserally.co.uk or
www.facebook.com/fortroseclassics
- 27th Aug 2016** NEW FOR 2016* Highlands & Islands Transport
Show, Scatraig Farm, Daviot www.hitshow.co.uk

4th Sep 2016 Motor Mania at Grantown on Spey, Grantown on Spey
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The recent Karting Club Night was such a success that "The Committee" has decided to repeat the exercise in December.

An Invitation is extended to All Members to come along and enjoy a Festive Evening to round off a busy HCMC year.

Those wanting to race a Kart on the night must contact a Club "Committee Member."

Payment of £22.50 must be made to the HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB before being allocated a Grid Space. There are 7 Grid Spaces left.

Contact Miles on the Forum Thread or use the Committee's Contact information in the Classic Scene Newsletter. Alternatively approach one of us at a Club Night or Car Show.

The evening starts at 7pm on Thursday 1st December.

There will be Racing, Prize Giving, Secret Santa and then time to retire to the Pub next door.

See you All there (with your Secret Santa gifts)"

Cheers, Miles.

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