

CLASSIC SCENE



August 2021



Cars and Coffee from the air - more inside.

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QUITE NEW!!!

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Cover Picture

Cars and Coffee from the air taken
by George Finlayson and his drone.
Too good not to put on the front
page.

Welcome to the August Newsletter

Welcome to this month's HCMC newsletter. I read an article in Practical Classics that really stood out for me. Nick Larkin was writing about the future or indeed survival of car clubs. It seems as membership gets younger, people are generally not interested in being on a committee, as that's a boring thing old people do, and car clubs are finding it hard enough to get anybody of any age to do committee work. I particularly like the line, "Then there's the thorny issue of producing the club magazine, which can be an incredible amount of work." Let me hear you say "Aaw." I think we are fortunate in the HCMC in that we are generally light touch and so far I quite like doing the newsletter though it takes about 8 hours a month. What do you mean it doesn't look like it? For example I believe we have been looking for a new webmaster for about 2 years, as the current one doesn't have enough time to do it justice. Volunteers by the next AGM please!

Nick Larkin talks about engaging with social media, which is interesting when you look at our numbers. The club currently has 59 paid up members, with a website that doesn't like to load. Our Facebook page has 756 followers with 1659 post engagements in the last 28 day period I took as a sample. If you remember the club forum, these are impressive numbers. And then if you look at the Cars and Coffee Facebook page we have 2300 followers and a ridiculous amount of engagement, and the events haven't even been on during lockdown. Then there's Instagram.

So, and this is a personal view I think we should use these social media platforms like big fishing nets to scoop up some new membership. I know from speaking to people personally there is a desire to join and support the club, but they have been unable to follow the joining process or have given up getting onto the website. Surely in that huge catchment there is a new webmaster in waiting?

So I have the notion to have a summertime stall at Cars and Coffee to sign up some new membership, I suggest at a reduced half year rate. Attracting membership is always going to be easier in the summer with classics out and about. Perhaps we could even change to a summer renewal period? Of course this is one for the committee to workout. Maybe set up a PayPal account?

I think there is a strong place for the traditional club, with a committee and AGM, not least because as classic car enthusiasts we like to do things the old traditional way, and because it works. Social media isn't for everyone. As Nick Larkin says in his payoff line, "All some of you need to do now is buy a computer."

In other news, I got pinged by the Covid tracing up at the end of my holidays in Benderloch. As a result of 10 days at home, the T5 van is finally waiting to go in for its MOT (update - failed - wheel bearing) but I discovered the Golf sill had rotted away behind the thick rubber underseal.

Happy classic motoring - your Editor.



Chairs Bitty

Sadly I was unable to join you for the pudding drive last month. Some last minute business meant that we had to go some other place at rather short notice on the Thursday. I hope that you all had a nice time. Certainly the weather was good.

In June we went away for a week to Perth. Whilst there we got chatting to a fellow camper – as you do – when his wife en-passant mentioned that they deliberately got a 4 berth caravan so that he could have his model railway at the back of their caravan. I was tempted to have a look, but with Covid rules I thought better of it, but I was wondering whether he was taking a hobby just a little bit too far. Another camper had bought himself a converted horsebox on an old Iveco chassis. Big huge wooden box in dark/burnt oak. If you've ever seen Amazing Spaces, you may have some idea of what the place looked like – I managed to get a glimpse through the tailgate. Very bijou if a bit dark. We also passed a caravan with the words "mobile B&B, no vacancies" on it – that brought a smile to our face.

We took the opportunity to make a visit to family in the central belt (all within covid rules) and wow, are there some mad **** on the roads down there, with one truckdriver apparently trying to run us off the road. We were doing the speed limit round Edinburgh – too many camera's – with the truck going somewhat faster than us. His pulling back in manoeuvre nearly took the front of the car before clipping the curb with his trailer and throwing up lots of crap and stones. Not a mile later I spotted the same truck almost taking out a car as he barged his way onto the M8 motorway. We gave him a wide berth.

Our plants survived the week on their own. I made sure they had plenty to drink before we left, with the saucers near overflowing. The tomatoes were in the shower tray and boy had they grown in that week. They managed to entwine themselves so that getting them back out of the shower was a bit tricky. They are now back in the living room, tied to the curtain rail to stop them from falling over.

Our Smart has been in for a service and a new thermostat. Not a local garage this time as even replacing spark plugs requires taking the back-end off the car and some specialist tools, especially on the bottom 3 spark plugs which are partially hidden. Some way back up the road that Alice noticed a misfire, but as long as the turbo boost stayed below 0.5bar, everything appeared OK. Needless to say we went back to that garage to get the spark plug leads replaced as the most likely culprits. The leads on cylinder one were identified as the naughty ones, with the top one slightly burned and the bottom one with a cut. How that was not spotted during the service..... possibly the inaccessible nature has something to do with it. However, the Smart is back to its purring/snarling self.

And the Landy, our dear Landy. It is still with the garage waiting on yet more parts – flexi hoses this time. Our mannie had just finished the service and all the other bits and bobs. Drove it off the ramp and aargh, no brakes. Foot straight to the floor. Fortunately rapid pumping got some brake action back, but you can't give a vehicle to the customer like that. I am not sure what is to blame, whether it is Brexit (manufactured parts from abroad) or Covid (everyone going off sick or isolating), whatever the reason, getting parts up these days seems to be very slow. At this rate when the Landy does come home it will feel like an event to celebrate.

This months meet is a more traditional one. An actual pub meet at the Munloch Arms. We'll take our drinks in the car park.



Trish.

You'll have had your tea?

The idea for this run was made up at the end of the June Club night. Going to Nairn for chips wasn't great as most people had had their tea, so it was supposed to be bring a pudding. I don't know how many puddings turned up but I'm told, "There weren't many classics but it a good turn out and a good laugh." I wonder if in this context a classic would be Black Forest Gateau or Sticky Toffee pudding?



Out and About



I loved this I.F.A Barkas B1000 van I saw on my holidays at Benderloch. I had to Google it. The B1000 is a forward control panel van made in East Germany. It was made as a panel van, minibus and pickup truck. Barkas B 1000 proved to be very durable and reliable. Its had a 27-year production period.

This Imp was seen inside the Wheel Specialist at 26 Shore St, Inverness IV1 1NG. 01463 226222. There's bit of sneaky advertising for them, which is OK because they are good and they gave us a club night pre-covid.



This beauty is in someone's back garden somewhere near Kiltarlity. I hope to retrieve it and see what spares are salvageable. Not many by the look of it, but even door handles are tricky to get hold of now. And the unobtainable clutch pedal quadrant gears can fail so that's the bit I really want.





Would anyone like a huge collection of my 1973-2005 fully bound classic car magazines FREE OF CHARGE. I will not split them so its all or nothing. I have all issues of Classic and Thoroughbred Cars, Classic and Sorts Car, Practical Classics, The Automobile etc.

I would deliver them without charge to whomever wanted them. They are immaculate as new in mint concours condition

It's that or the skip here on Skye. Today in our internet world these old magazines are Old hat.

Please ask around and let me know.

Here is a picture of about 20 per cent of them..

We see all the time on eBay etc a few pages of a articulate road test of a car for sale.....someone I suspect with inclination (not me) could make some money by taking them to pieces and selling pages to folk who "have to have a road test in a 1965 Singer Gazelle" for example!!!

Best to all

Tim Moore

Contact via editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

Cars and Coffee

I missed this months event so I have stolen second hand reports from social media. If I recall it was a wet day so there weren't as many classics out (wimps aren't we?) but still there was an interesting turn out and more than one star car. Some cars are just common though. I think this called a team of ponies...



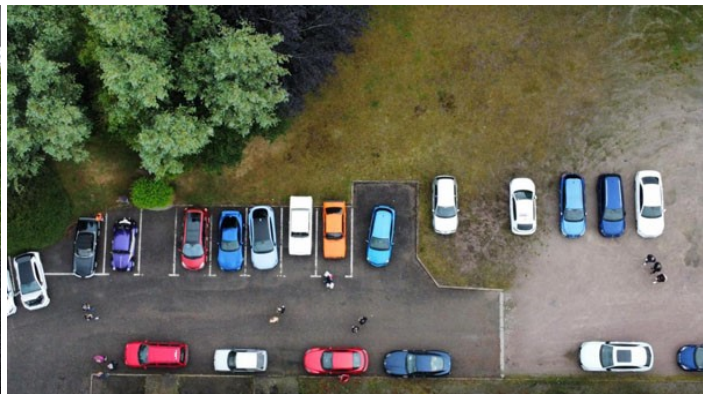
It turns out the orange Mustang belongs to a neighbour of mine. Anyway what



about this? It's a (Renault) Alpine GTA 2.5 V6 (I think) turbo. This was actually a rival to Porches 944 but was faster due to being lighter and more aero dynamic.



This Escort has been years in the rebuild and has just been tuned up on a rolling road ready to go out for the first time in many years. This old ford caused quite a stir attracting a lot of interest on it's first outing. Who doesn't like that moment when you reveal your project car to the world. Finished at last.



Here are a couple more of George's drone pictures. Not only are they spectacular but you do get an idea of numbers. It doesn't look a lot but I counted all the cars across the photographs and it was about 70 on a dull wet day, so talk of over a hundred cars and good covid free days is very believable.



Since my Golf no longer has a drivers side sill, I've been driving the Beetle about. I recognised this red Polo on Millburn Road. The driver recognised the Beetle, and we exchanged cheery wave. Ah, such a nice sense of community and belonging.

I've never noticed the Saxo driving about though. Sorry Saxo owner.



And here (in my opinion) are some of the best of the rest.



Funnies

Well not everyone will find these funny, but HCMC editorial policy is to try and offend everyone equally in the name of equality and impartiality.

If you think you are smarter than the previous generation... 50 years ago the owners manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves. Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.

AND, YOU THOUGHT SMOKING AT THE PUMP WAS RISKY



WHOEVER SAID "MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS"



BOUGHT THE WRONG CAR



**Ford's new Perfume smells like petrol.
Made for electric car users who miss the smell.**

Austin Healey 3

Jim MacKay

Both Healeys were parked up in a dry and draughty shed at my uncles and I joined the Austin Healey Club Northern Centre which in those days sent out monthly newsletters and "Revcounter" the glossy central magazine was bi-monthly. The cars were just 10 -25 years old then and there were a lot of hands-on articles printed. I enjoyed being part of that scene more of a bystander really but I was out there dipping my toe occasionally. The late Bill Duff from Forfar had a really nice red 100/4 and Hugh Skinner had a red one as well. His had fibre glass wings as the supply of wings had run out and the demand wasn't sufficient for anyone to start producing them. He wanted to buy a pair from me but I wasn't keen on starting to break.

The storage shed at my uncles was to be pulled down before it fell down so both Healeys, the A40 and a Triumph 2.5 PI had to be moved. Fortunately, my father had eased out of livestock and his sheds were empty, empty of livestock but full of dried out dung; nothing is simple. I cleaned the floors out and then proceeded to cover them with cars, tractors and stationary engines. It wasn't deliberate, it just happened. You know how it is.

I picked up some spares for the Healeys along the way but starting a restoration was away on the horizon despite being advised that they were the only cars worth doing up. No, they had to wait a bit longer, when I had a bit more time. You know how it is.

I retired from the day job and spent the first seven years catching up on essential jobs that were outstanding, mostly redoing the rushed repairs that were cobbled together to buy some time when I was busy working. Having got my house in order (there's a clue there!) it was time to turn my attention to the Healeys. Oh, yes, my grandfathers A40 first as an easy warm-up for the task ahead.

Nearly forty years had passed under the bridge of dreams and the spares car was now too valuable to break. It was partly dismantled and I decided to restore it keeping the other one whole for reference. This way I didn't have to deal with the removal of an engine and gearbox. Oh, how short-sighted that turned out to be. And so in May 2016, the red one was pulled out, loaded on to a trailer and moved to Inverness. Cheers, *Jim MacKay*.



Out and About On the Road



There have been a number of ad hoc runs here and there, with trips around the Black Isle, a run to Ullapool and a last minute Sunday jaunt to Nairn via Ardesier (above). This was the only one I made and I only made the first half. There was a mention of Ron King missing the start of that but then going on a longer route via Grantown.

I spotted Chris Lycett at Struy near Glen Strathfarrer, and I assume many more have you had had you classics out and about. Send us some pictures. I took my Sierra out. The last time I stopped at the Beaulieu Co-Op, the battery failed. The new battery was much better.



I heard this Caterham going past my house. Someone's having fun I thought. It turns out they were.

Below - a spirited drive to Ullapool.



HCMC August Club Night

August run 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at Council car park, Glenurquhart Rd.
Ending at Allangrange Hotel Munlochy who will do us pizza and nibbles.

Bryan.