

CLASSIC SCENE



August 2024



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The club has an extensive archive of
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Cover Picture

Pudding Run.

Don't you wish you'd been there?

Welcome to the August Newsletter

August is coming up and we're still waiting for summer to arrive in full. Never mind. The club has had a good year with plenty going on. No we're not in Practical Classics this month but the Rotary Club of East Sutherland Classic Car Tour gets a mention in 'Charity Heros' with 70 cars listed on their Gairloch to Dornoch run and raising a respectable £10k. On page 56 is a Ford Sierra resto feature but not just any old Sierra but one Stephen Rodgers who's a Cars and Coffee regular. The picture looks like it's from our Highland hook-up with PC late last year.

I am on a hiatus from boat maintenance and have actually been able to sail the bloomin' thing. However I have discovered a backlog of jobs in garage. Last month I think I reported the EGR failure of the Skoda Fabulous and buying a Panda 4x4 to let Mrs Editor get out of the house. It was purchasing on a whim, but boy I love that car. It makes you smile when you drive it. It's frantic in that special Italian way. Even the dash indications come on and off at speed because Italian drivers have little time to waste looking for a warning light. (Apologies for stereotyping!) The engine is a fizzy little thing and one you've come over all Italian yourself, you might eventually reach the heady heights of 50mph. I've seen 70 once!

Anyway I digress. The Panda gets a mention because the rear exhaust box became detached from the pipe. An afternoon with a cutting disc, big hammer and a welder got that fixed. No complaints—I knew it was rusty, but I needed fixed before I go away on a wee break.

That break was nearly cancelled when the Mundane-o failed it's MOT on worn trailing arm bushes. I had two days in which to fix this and it requires a special puller to do it. Luckily there was one on Amazon Prime. Next day delivery. Sorted. The next day I (eventually) unbolted the arms and air chiselled out the old bushes while waiting for the puller to arrive. Except it didn't. I checked the order status and delivery was rescheduled for the day before my holiday started. Expletives. I tried to come up with a plan B but resorted to alcohol. Any chemist will tell you wine is a solution.

The next morning our postie arrived with guess what? Yes the puller. Overjoyed is an understatement. As all the prep had been done, fitting the new bushes was quite straight forward with instructions supplied by YouTube. After a retest, the car has an MOT and the holiday will commence. Excellent.

Mrs Editor likes the Mondeo and doesn't want me to sell it. After a wheel bearing, a DPF, a handbrake cable and new suspension bushes it was still a bargain and I think I'll keep it for another year. Or two.

In other news I have joined an 'Old Garage Forecourts' group on Facebook. That's an excellent source of motoring related nostalgia, and I can highly recommend it.

Happy classic motoring everyone,

Your Editor

Ramblings from the Chair



It's that time of year again – so much to do in the garden and around the outside of the house – and then there's days out in the nice (??) weather, let alone holidays, that there seems to be little time for fettling and general maintenance of our classics. In my own case, the Senator has only had attention for some short periods (not that it is wanting much, although there is always room for improvement) but it seems to be the 'moderns' that seem to take up time on niggling faults. I have had to ditch the backplates on the front brakes on our Golf – what a rattle!! It seems that VW came up with the idea to make these from alloy – great idea in that they won't rust like so many on cars I have owned. The Golf ones looked perfect, EXCEPT the alloy has corroded around the bolt holes to the point of complete detachment. You might remember from your school days that metals higher up in the periodical table give themselves up to protect those metals lower down (i.e., the steel bolts holding the backplates in place). So they have gone – I'm told they are not required for the MOT and might actually help prevent the backs of the discs from rusting (where they always do) by allowing moisture to escape more easily. And I thought that might be the last of it until I heard a similar rattling from the rear, under the boot. This turns out to be the exhaust heat shield whose 4no. fixings are completely missing. It looks very much like an inverted baking tray, in aluminium, and now nicely resting on top of the transverse silencer, free to move in any direction but held very loosely in place by the rear valance, the chassis rails and the suspension – and it rattles like nothing on earth. Given that VW have been around for some 90 years, you might have thought they would have come up with a solution to this problem – I mean the car is only seven years old after all. I see that the internet has replacement fixing kits – 1no. is on order. Perhaps a dose of Waxoyl might help the longevity of the new fixings.

On a completely separate matter, I have been fascinated by a website called Vauxpedia – it gives very detailed accounts of most Vauxhall (and Bedford) vehicles built since the 1930s, including a great many photo's and details during development. Those, like myself, who are interested in GM's finest, will be able to waste many 'surfing' hours and discovering how wrong things went in the early 70's.

I see the next outing is around Loch Ness (anti-clockwise) from Tesco Holm – A82 first then. I think I might join the soiree at Drumnadrochit (saving a journey into town, again) and on to the Whitebridge Hotel for a natter. See you there.

Regards, Richard

The Pudding Run

Mark Wilson

Club Night. Culloden Battlefield to Nairn, 4 July.

It was a dark and stormy night, when 6 cars, with intrepid Club members met at the Culloden Battlefield for the annual Pudding Run. (OK it wasn't dark and stormy, but it was bloomin' freezing in the wind, although we had all had our tea!)

We all had a chance for a chat and catch-up before we set off, and it was good to see Callum's "new" Dyane (or is a 2CV?), although he assured me he's had it for 2 years! Shows how long it's been since I was at a club event with cars.

Our directions were duly distributed by Richard, who made it clear that they had been devised by Bryan McIlwraith, who unfortunately couldn't be there, hope you're better now Bryan? I'm sure Richard did this to make sure Bryan got due credit for his work and not to divert any blame!

We duly set off in the obligatory convoy, we took up the rear as our 3 series isn't yet a classic, but the dogs would complain if they were in the boot of the Jag.

The route took us on a grand tour of some B and poorer roads around Clava Cairns, Culloden Viaduct, Leanach, Cantray, Clephanton and a few other places Helen and I haven't been to, or learned how to spell yet. The dry and fairly bright night did allow for some spectacular views and photo opportunities.

As well as the scenic views, there was the obligatory section of road that had just been tarred and chipped, but it seemed to have been done a couple of days ago, so we could keep up a reasonable speed and didn't hold any Tesco delivery vans up this time. (Has Bryan got insider information on the sections being done?)

I haven't mentioned all of the places visited if you followed the directions because, yep, you guessed it, we lost sight of the back of the convoy, missed one of the turn offs, got lost and had to do a straight run on the B9090 / A939 arriving in Nairn at the railway bridge on the A96. We did however manage to complete over 2/3 of the run.

A quick saunter down to the carpark at the beach car park and we found out we were first to arrive!





Shortly thereafter, the convoy arrived, Helen took the dogs onto the beach and I got torn into my Eton Mess. Not just an ordinary Eton Mess, this was an M&S Eton Mess! (Boom, Boom!) (Other pudding suppliers are available.)

Callum had the right idea and brought a wind break with him, which proved very useful. Hard to imagine the weather in July could be so cold.

We hung around as long as we could, but eventually we gave in to the wind and decided that the heated seats were a better option and so headed for home.

I'd finally like to say thank you to Bryan for producing an excellent run, Richard for making sure we were given the directions and all the other attendees (Michael, Iain, Callum, Shona and Miles) for coming along and making it a terrific evening.



Fleeting moments

Trish Brown

A fortnight after we delivered our Smart down to Fauldhouse, we picked the Smart back up again, fully fixed and with a fresh MOT. But the garage had a warning for us, that it is getting increasingly difficult to get spares for this car. No surprise there, our mannie at the garage has been saying that for months now, that it is generally increasingly difficult to get spares for any car. Especially if the parts need to come from abroad.

Now, at the beginning of the month as we are on our way to the Nairn pudding run we are passed by several police cars and an ambulance. Turns out the A9 is closed at Alness due to an accident, so you can picture the chaos. Oh well, we will just have to go round through Alness to Skiach. Except that everyone else was doing the same and by the time we got to the Westford roundabout, the road out to Skiach was pretty jammed up to. We turned back at this point, but in the spirit of the evening we decided to take a detour and have our pudding at home. The profiteroles [My favourite—Editor] were yummy.

Caption Competition



Is it too cruel and mean to present this as a caption competition?

Would you like to be mocked and ridiculed by your club members?

Yes? Excellent. Send your photos in to

editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

along with your entry for this months competition.

You might even be in for a mystery prize.*

* Used oil filter.

Cars And Coffee

Sunday 14th July



I don't have the words for this months Cars and Coffee, so I'm going to let the pictures do the talking.



This Jeep or Geep is worth a mention It's a Jago Jeep (or Geep) kit car from the 1970's. Or is it as it's actually registered as a Chamwell and is the new plaything of Mr. Cars and Coffee himself, Miles Vincent.





Out and About



New to the market on the 4th July was the Kia Starmor.

It's a bit of a dull drive with a strange steering geometry which means it has a tendency to pull to the left.

I spotted this on holiday in Argyle. Can you identify it? I couldn't, but someone we know did.



And finally a private registration I could use.

It actually seems familiar to me, does anyone know anything about it?

The FBHVC Manifesto

HCMC recieved another message from the FBHVC about their manifesto. Yes another manifesto, but this time, hopefully an interesting one.

Dear supporter

Normally, the Federation would publish our manifesto wishes to political parties ahead of any General Election campaign but all of the parties were so late in publishing their documents we made the decision to withhold our wishes until now.

As it transpired this was a good decision as we anticipated a wider spread of political parties winning seats in parliament, now is a better time to publicise 'historic vehicles' to the many new elected representatives and provide key facts about our movement for the future.

We will continue to work tirelessly to build relationships.

David Whale

Chairman

Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs Ltd

"Maintain the freedom to use Yesterdays Vehicles on Tomorrow's Roads"

To realise the potential of the historic vehicle movement, we call on all political parties to:

- Achieve an equitable outcome to the DVLA Review. The review, launched on 26th July, 2023 will assess the DVLA based on the four pillars set by the Cabinet Office of efficiency, efficacy, accountability and governance.
- Embrace the DVLA Call for Evidence launched on 9th May 2024 with the objective of gaining enthusiast opinion on how the historic vehicle registration process may best accommodate current and future needs.
- Recognise the economic significance of the historic vehicle movement and engage accordingly with it.
- Recognise the benefits of Social Prescribing which extend beyond those directly involved in the movement.
- Support our activities to gain heritage recognition of historic vehicles.
 - Continue to support people who wish to participate in Historic Vehicle restoration apprenticeships. and specifically through legislative powers....
- Extend the Vehicle Excise Duty exemption for historic vehicles.

<https://www.fbhvc.co.uk/our-manifesto>

VOLVO 740 GLE MOT October 2024

FOR SALE £ 3,250 or reasonable offer



2024 New front brakes and discs fitted
Replaced fuel filter
2 new front tyres
Fluids replaced
New horn
New stainless steel baffle box and end pipe to rear exhaust
Brighter LED lamps in headlights fitted, better for night driving.

2023 NSR brake hose replaced
Replaced both front anti bar roll links
OSR handbrake cable
Welding to front and rear pans/chassis legs, NSR floor pan, inner rear lower
WAX oil to underside of car
Wire at switch on gear stick & wires underfloor repaired
New spark plugs
Replaced rear brake pads and discs
NSR brake calliper replaced
Replaced fuel pump
New exhaust front pipe
Replaced Clutch slave cylinder.

Very well looked after and much-loved friend. No major MOT advisories. Excellent runner and a great car. Serviced annually, with full history from 2002 to date. Odometer not working (currently reads 218K) but this does not affect MOT. Approximate milage 225k Miles which is nothing for a Volvo. Bodywork in *excellent condition and clean interior*. Careful lady owner, I have had the car since 2002 and selling as have two cars now reducing down to one. More information on request. **CONTACT NUMBER 077 11 811 897**

HCMC Events

8th Jul 2024 Wings & Wheels Easter Airfield, Balintore. 12noon Display your Classic Car for the "Open Fly In Day" Planes. Land 1100-1300 & depart 1330-1400. Catering Trailer on site. 11.30 convoy from 1st lay-by North of Cromarty Bdg. At Airfield bear right to Cabin. 3Words:///commands.skimmers.grills

1st Aug 2024 HCMC Drive around Loch Ness Tesco Holm, Inverness The HCMC August Meeting is a scenic drive, anti-clockwise around Loch Ness starting at 7.30pm from Tesco Holm, Inverness and finishing at the Whitebridge Hotel.

9th Aug 2024 DubNess - The Gathering of the Vans Clune Farm, Dores, Inverness 9th - 11th August 2024 at Clune Farm, Dores, Inverness. Camping for your van or visit for a day. Details on "DubNess - The Gathering of the Vans" Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/DubNessGatheringofthevans>

10th Aug 2024 TruckNess 2024 Black Isle Show Ground TruckNess 2024 will be held at the Black Isle Show Ground. Details at www.trucknessinverness.com or on Facebook at Truckness 2024. Classic Cars Welcome. Book On Line for "Show Only" Arrive Saturday 8.30am-10am. Put a Donation in the Bucket.

11th Aug 2024 Historic Wheels Club Annual Rally Brodie Castle Morayshire
Details and entry form from Lisa Minshull 01343555157 or glmmodors@aol.com Check Entry form Deadline.