



CLASSIC SCENE
September 2010

Office Bearers & Committee

Chairman: **Michael Osborne**
Tel: 01463 871473
michael.oz@btoopenworld.com
Secretary: **Ian Nixon**
Tel: 01349 866178
irf_nixon@hotmail.com
Treasurer: **Ian Thompson**
Tel: 01463 790969
ian.judith@virgin.net

Committee **Roy MacGregor**
Jim Lorrain-Smith
Ranald Smith
Miles Vincent

Membership

Bryan McIlwraith
Renewals should be sent to Bryan at 72 Lochalsh
Road, Inverness IV3 6HW
Tel: 01463 222839 (work) 01463 741632 (home)
Bmcilwraith@osteopath-highland.co.uk
Please let Bryan know if you have an email address

HCMC Homepage

www.highlandclassic.org.uk

Editor

Callum Beveridge
47 Old Mill Lane, Inverness, Highland
IV2 3XP Tel: 01463 231787
Email: editor@highlandclassic.ndo.co.uk

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
Tel: 01463 236459
Ranaldsmith@btinternet.com

Copyright

Neither the Editor nor the officers of the Highland
Classic Motor Club are necessarily in agreement with
opinions expressed in this magazine. Such opinions
are entirely the views of the author and imply no
recommendation by the Highland Classic Motor Club

All rights reserved. Apart from any fair dealings as
permitted under the terms of the Copyright Design
and Patents Act of 1988, no part of this magazine
may be reproduced in any form whatsoever without
the written permission of the Highland Classic Motor
Club

Contents

- 3 The Chairman's Bit
- 4 Editorial
- 5 Event Diary
- 6 Miles's Meanderings
- 8 Retirement Ramblings
- 9 Memory Lane
- 10 Out & About

Cover picture

*An early Skoda Octavia snapped in
Inverness recently.*

THE CHAIRMAN'S BIT

The summer seems to be quietly slipping away but there is still the Fortrose show to look forward to and Grantown on Spey shortly after. I've not been to many of the shows this year but by all reports they have all been successful. It never ceases to amaze me that there are so many events to go to in the Highlands.

This area still seems very popular with visiting car and bike enthusiasts. I often see a group of bikes or classic cars parked outside the Priory in Beaulieu, an overnight stop on a grand tour. My favourites so far this year have been a brace of Mercedes SL Pagodas and a bunch of Harleys, I haven't a clue what models they were but they didn't half sound good!

I've just been reading a recently published book detailing the early years of TVR. Apart from the bonus that it actually



contains pictures of my car the one thing I took away from the book was just how poorly the early cars were made. Quite sobering when I realise that I've put up with mine for thirty five years.

See you all at Fortrose.

Michael

michael.oz@btopenworld.com

For Sale: 1983 Mercedes 230E Auto saloon.

Beautiful condition approx 112,000miles. A Reg plate.SORN and garage for last 2years but will MOT no problem.£2,750.

Phone number 01349 865474

Hugh Vaughan



This Months Meeting

Thursday 2nd September 7:30pm. Drive each others cars night (optional) at Brockie's Lodge, Kiltarlity

EDITORIAL

Hi,

August has been a busy month what with the Brodie Castle run as well as the Dunrobin Castle show. I opted for the Northern run this time, as I could combine it with a trip to Helmsdale to salivate over a field of rotten 2CVs. Lots of exotic tinware on show combined with perfect weather and a nice run down the coats from Helmsdale. The night under canvas on the Nudist beach at Crackaig was dull in comparison.

Last months meeting was a trip to the White-bridge Hotel down the side of Loch Ness. It was good to see Liz there in her Austin 10 and she managed to beat us to the bar (albeit with a head start).

Next weekend sees the end of the 'season' for some motorists with the Dingwall Street Fayre and Grantown Motor Mania providing a fitting end.

Going back to all things 2CV, I know of two 'project' cars needing some TLC if anyone's interested. They'll need quite a bit of work to restore to their former 'glory' but they are getting quite hard to find now,,,

Thanks to Chris for this months cover picture, although the Motors North supplement managed to beat us to it! Motors North have made a request to use some of the photos from our 'Out & About' section in their publication, giv-



ing the club some media exposure. If you're not happy to share your photos in this manner, please let me know when you send them in.

If you're at a loose end this Saturday, don't forget the Fortrose Rally. Late entries are more than welcome and the cakes are quite something!

This months meeting is a pub night at Brockie's Lodge, near Kiltarlity where there will be an opportunity to 'drive each others cars' if you're game (optional). We ran this a couple of years ago and it was most enlightening (nobody crashed anything I might add)!

Octobers meeting will be a talk by the Road Policing Unit from Dingwall at the Old North Inn, Inchmore. This kicks off at 8pm sharp and spaces are limited...

Callum

editor@highlandclassic.ndo.co.uk

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB **Monthly meetings (1st Thursday of every month)**

2010

September 2nd	Drive each other cars night—Brockie's Lodge, Kiltarlity
October 7th	Road Policing Unit Talk—Old North Inn, Inchmore 7:30 for 8pm
November 4th	tba

(Further details to be published in 'Classic Scene' prior to the individual meetings)

Local Events Diary

Here are some details of 2010 local events that may be of interest to our members

August

28th Fortrose Vintage Vehicle Rally. Details from website of John Mackenzie.

September

4th Dingwall Street Fair. Contact Donald Mackenzie 01349 861009

5th Motor Mania—Grantown on Spey

18th/19th Selkirk Rally

26th Roseisle Show—Inchkeil Steading—Danny Duncan 01667 455078

If you notice any errors or omissions, please let the editor know.

FOR SALE

Marantec Comfort 250 electric garage door opener; complete and works but just a bit slow. Any reasonable offer considered. Contact Chris Silver 01381 621211 evenings.

TO LET

single lock-up garage for rent in Celt Street, Inverness. Partly concrete-block construction, seems quite dry & weather-tight, has a pit of sorts. £20 per week, long let preferred (i.e at least a year). Please contact Mrs Gill Silver, Messrs MacNeill & Critchley, Solicitors, 9 Ardross Street, Inverness. Tel 01463 232081 (office hours).

DINGWALL ROTARY CLUB GREAT FEIL MAREE CLASSIC VEHICLE GATHERING

Dear Enthusiast,

The Classic Vehicle Gathering at this year's Feil will be our fifth anniversary and with the numbers increasing with the popularity of the day, we hope that you will join us in Dingwall and make this years event even more successful than previous years.



The Street Fayre itself will no doubt provide us with the same high level of entertainment and interest that it has in the past and we hope the Classic Car event will again be the major part of the days entertainment, culminating in the parade down Dingwall High Street at the end of the day which has become a favourite of both the public and organisers alike.

On the day, follow the signs to the Cromartie Car Park in the centre of the town for about midday and remain there until those who want to, can join the parade at 4pm. The vehicles being a major part of the spectacle. We will have a lot more space in the Park than previous years.

There will also be a chance to compete for a bit of silverware, and if you so desire you can have your vehicle judged in the following categories:

Pre War Classics
Post-War Classics

Motorcycles

Modern Classics
Commercial and Farm Vehicles

The Dingwall Tyres Cup will be awarded for best in show and the Mackay Shield for the best commercial vehicle. You may wish to come along and not have your car judged - just turn up and join us for a blither. Tea and coffee will be provided in the Town Hall.

Please email your name, address and vehicle details to Donald Mackenzie at donaldmack2@gmail.com or telephone 01463 230885 (work), 01349 861009 (home) or Charlie Mackay at charlie.mackay@btinternet.com or telephone 01349 862093.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Kind regards

Charlie Mackay



SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2010

Miles's Meanderings

Well if that was my Summer Holiday then I've had it, although I think from now on I will just call it my "July Break," as calling any of our recent weather "summer" would seriously be pushing the boundaries of anyone's imagination. There's not exactly been much Classic Car Cruising weather has there?

We have actually been quite lucky with a little bit of sunshine (or it at least stayed dry) for some of our Club runs and local shows though, but I quite like jumping in the Mini when the kids need a lift to one of their many extra curricular evening or weekend activities. It gives me an excuse for a quick hoon around town. For the last month, however, the poor thing has been sheltering under its waterproof cover with drips hanging off its nose (much like the rest of us really!)

The weather wasn't all that bad on my holiday as it happens, but that was mainly because I had driven all the way to Weymouth to escape a Highland drenching (it was fairly windy too judging by the amount of garden furniture re-arranging that went on in my absence).

I even managed a wee tan, unless the discolouring of my skin had anything to do with the non-functioning water system in the motor home. It's amazing how time flies between washes when it involves a quarter mile dash across a sodden field in the lashing rain, but then I'm sure that's all part of the joys of camping in the UK. (At least there were no Midges!)

The whole holiday thing really didn't get off to the flying start that we'd hoped for and that

wasn't just because of the hours spent faffing about under the seats trying to fix the water supply.

You know how, when you have saved for and budgeted for something like a holiday, however hard you try to think of all the possible eventualities that could throw you, there is always that one unexpected expense you seem to have to account for; well ours came to about £250!

The cat, you see, gets a little restless when it senses that we are about to depart somewhere

for a couple of weeks, so it was of no surprise when it started to clamber about in the motor home and the luggage pods underneath it. I just thought "what harm can it come to?" and left it to its own devices, whilst making a mental note to check that we did not have a

stowaway on board when we set off down the A9 (with the Satnav turned off this time!).

Well, when it was time to nip off in the car to pick the kids up from School the cat was nowhere to be found. "No worries"; it could stay in the motor home 'til we got back.

We were suspicious that the cat was fairly deaf (it's quite old) but we didn't think it was so profoundly deaf that it would not react to a Ford Focus being started, especially when it was sitting in front of one of the wheels!!!

Hence, the frantic dash to the Vet where, with a wailing cat on the examination table and two moist-eyed children standing next to me, I was presented with an "authorisation form" to sign,



for the estimated £250 treatment required!

Bang went the planned visit to IKEA on the way home from holiday I can tell you!

It's lucky that they don't use those tactics in garages isn't it. Can you imagine being asked to give an authorisation signature for an estimated bill of up to £250 when all you've done is pull onto the forecourt with a slight oil leak and a blowing exhaust, having hit a Highland Council pothole just as you were setting off on the family holiday to Disneyland with the kids in the back!

Anyway the holiday wasn't a complete CATastrophe; we did make it to Weymouth via the Mini Festival at Gaydon Heritage Museum, a very enjoyable day out with plenty of Mini-shaped metal on show and I even managed to wangle an afternoon at Beaulieu Motor Museum but I suspect that an afternoon is all you would really need unless one of their famous Auto Jumbles was happening.

(The morning had been taken up by following the Satnav most of the way to London having used the wrong postcode initially and then allowing it to guide me the long way through the New Forrest instead of following the Brown Tourist signs to Beaulieu. In my defence, my navigator had by then fallen, asleep next to me, in the passenger seat!)

My children really liked the display of vehicles used as advertisements and were particularly enamoured with the Cadbury's Cream Egg car but I suspect a few of you would be more

interested in the vans shaped like Beer Bottles! My particular favourite was Duckhams Oil Can.



I took hundreds of pictures while away and hopefully by the time you read this (or at least soon after) I will have managed to upload them to Photobucket. There were even a couple of pics that could be called family holiday snaps, but I'll not bore you with them (there are enough of cars to bore you already!) Just go to the Club web site, click on the Highland Heaps section in the photo menu and you will be into my Photobucket account. Feel free to browse about, there's plenty to interest all you car fans.

Now, if I've written this quick enough and got it to Callum before his deadline then you may be reading this before the Fortrose Rally in which case have a good day and I'll see you there, if not, then I hope the weather was good and the cakes as big as last year!

Oh! The cat? Yes she's fine, nothing broken and after six weeks of cage rest it's back to fur all over the sofa and fur balls in the kitchen. You would have thought that for £250 they would have cured that as well but, hey, when was the last time you picked your car up and found that anything extra had been done that didn't involve another bill for hundreds of pounds.

Hang on; maybe signing an authorisation form before any work is carried out by a garage is not a bad idea after all!

MILES

Retirement Ramblings September '10

I remember the night that the horn went off on the family Wolseley 4/44. It was a lovely car in black with red leather seats and it accelerated as badly as it braked. It didn't have an alarm of course and, when I realised where the noise was coming from, I was mystified and it was with some trepidation that I went down to the steading with torch in hand. The car was never locked so it had to be someone slumped over the wheel, right? I was relieved not to find a body and set about silencing the horns which at that time of night was a very loud cacophony. Pulling out the correct fuse would have been the best solution if I could have remembered where the three fuses were! I decided to disconnect the battery because I knew where it was. I didn't bargain on both terminals corroded on requiring tools. I knew then it had been a wrong decision but I was committed and a

search for something suitable on my father's work bench seemed to take forever. When I said "workbench" I was making an assumption that there was some sort of bench under there for I had never seen it. I had the option of a plough share, a hackless-saw, a non-adjustable adjustable, a bent screwdriver and a mole grips with one of the grips missing. The latter did the trick, it always does, and one of the terminals was separated with a bright flash. Instant silence. Oh, what a relief. But I had become accustomed to the noise and now the silence was making me uneasy! Fortunately, no practical joker stepped out of the shadows but that meant sorting out the problem in the morning. The horn and semaphores cables ran down a stator tube inside the steering tube and were exposed to the elements on exit. You'll appreciate that the elements were wide and varied down on the croft and the plough share could well be one of them! The grass in the centre of the road was the likely culprit as these three wires acted strimmer-like in

keeping the grass at the correct height. The wires were perished as well, remember they were covered with rubber and burning wiring was par for the course then. Some insulating tape sorted it out and the number plate was lowered to take over the grass cutting duties! We're never stuck on the croft but forward thinking like this was unusual.

I watched this year's Festival of Speed at Goodwood and my favourite, tackling the hill climb, was the white Transit van fitted with a tuned V6 engine. Great stuff and he wasn't last either. I'm sure that'll make Bryan a bit happier!



I met Andy Findlay in H.I.S. (where else?) and he has taken an LDV minibus and converted into a campervan. It's the way forward Andy and that Transit engine under the bonnet could be swopped for a V6!

I have a clock in my garage, a Smiths car clock set in wood with the words "Live life to the full no matter the cost" burnt on to it. I was given it by Hall Thomson of Ford Model T fame. He had the filling station at Millerton and parked his Bentley on the fore court. The first green was across the road and many a golf ball came on to his premises, bouncing off the Bentley on occasions! Previously he had put a Model T together and decided to do another. I think the front half of the chassis and front axle came out of Loch Ness and so it was that he sourced all the bits and built another one! When he found out that I was looking for a clock for my Austin 10, he took it off the wall and kindly gave it to me. As time went on, I accumulated clocks and I reinstated this one on the wall. However, I never agreed with the words and recently I decided to give it the heave ho. I had second thoughts, sanded out the last four words, lacquered it and put it back up on the wall. Hall lives on!

The first picture is of club members

Kevin Barry, Stuart Moore and myself rescuing a Rochdale GT from a shed near Dingwall back in 1987. I took the Rochdale with me when I went South but due to lack of space eventually sold it on to someone in Angus. Often wondered what happened to it. Wouldn't mind buying it back now!



MEMORY LANE



The next photo is a genuine 'barn find' Wolseley 1500 out on the Black Isle. Tom McCallum will remember this one. I ran 7 DOO for a few years and then sold it on. Note that the barn also contains an Alvis (Gey Lady?) and a biggish Austin/Morris of 30s vintage.

I recently went along to the Scottish Austin 7 Club's annual bash near Perth. Perfect sunny Sunday and 7s as far as the eye could see. Wonderful. I thought the one with the antlers on top was particularly appropriate for Classic Scene



I have finally got my Clan running and MOTd. Hope Dave Straube has now got his Clan running. I took it

along to the Saltire Rally Club's Aberfeldy Amble run as you can see and, amazingly, it was not the only Clan! The green one is an Irish version with pop-up headlamps. An American came up to me asked what it was and on being told it was a Clan he said "I guess they must have been made in Scotland" He was very surprised to find that they were made in England (and Ireland) but until that point it had never occurred to me to wonder why they were called 'Clans'. I will attempt to find out.

Dave Charles

Out & About

classics spotted in and around the Highlands.





If you're interested in further details of these vehicles, contact the editor for more info



Jaguar XK 120 seen on the Dunrobin Castle rally this year



Some of the club cars arriving at Dunrobin Castle