

CLASSIC SCENE



40th Anniversary

October 2019



**Inside! 18 Minis at Cars and Coffee.
Yellow vehicles at Granttown and a
wet steer at Dingwall Mart.**



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The club has an extensive archive of
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Cover Picture

18 classic Minis at Cars and Coffee.
Yellow vehicles at Grantown Motor-
mania and a wet start to the
Fortrose and Rosemarkie Classic Ve-
hicle Show.

Welcome to the October Newsletter

September saw the usual late season shows, with a very wet Fortrose and Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Show followed the very next day by Grantown Motor Mania. The following weekend had La Crofterra Pandemonia, the Dingwall Street Fair and possibly one of the best Cars and Coffee ever, with 18 old school Minis and 9 BMW types celebrating 60 years of the marque, plus all the regulars. More on this later. Then there was the debut of Wheels of Nairn And the Laich of Moray Vintage association.



I noticed with great delight that the front cover of Practical Classics features a Ford Sierra no less! This isn't the only unexpected car to feature. There is a full feature on the Smart Roadster, a Citroen Dyane and a guide on buying a later Mini, not the more favoured Austin or Morris branded ones. Hands up members, if you have any of these.

In Jim Mackay's newsletter contribution he can't quite believe he's photographed a Volvo. In previous magazines the Mk1 Ford Focus and Ford Ka have been tipped as future classics and there is often reported bias against BL's Austin Princess and Ambassador wedges.

It just goes to show that ultimately the status of 'Classic' lies with enthusiasts like us, and the ones that will follow. When my Sierra gets an enthusiastic response, and it does, it's always by people in an age bracket around 30-50. Even as a fan of these cars I can't quite believe the classic status as it's just an old car I'm enthusiastic about.

In other news Mrs Editor and I have been on holiday to Orkney which we loved. There was a wry smile on my face as we passed Mackay's Hotel Wick on the way home and I thought of John Archie Gunn having a pint in there while telling tales of y half race Imp van and young Mackay.

Apologies if you think there are too many pictures in this months issue. It's a result of the sheer number of shows. Next month I have an article that will balance this and it's a good read.

Your Editor

Chairs Bitty

I hope you all had a nice drive out to Nairn last month. We happened to be on our way abroad for a much needed holiday. The holiday was taken up by lots of walking, a bit of cycling, museum visits and some pre-Brexit shopping. And as you do, we spotted various classic vehicles about the place. On our way home we came across a group of mainly older Masarati's doing the NC500. The group also included a Audi Quattro s1 and a Ferrari Daytona. We spotted a Ferrari FF driving past as we paused in the layby at the start of the Killiecrankie dual carriage way. And an idiot undertaking vehicles by going through the said layby.



It was glorious sunshine when we came home and we needed it for cutting the grass which had grown to some considerable length in our absence. The Skoda too has taken a "holiday". We half expected this as the car's battery does not like standing around doing nothing for any length of time. I am not sure what is doing this, but Alice thinks the battery may be the original and is simply at the end of its life. If that is the case 14 years service is ok in my books. The battery was put on charge, but was taking a very long time to show any sign of charging. Alice got me a new battery anyway.

And in our absence the courgettes have made an effort and actually produced 1 courgette. I had almost given up on them as up to now every time there was a flower, the slugs (or birds, never sure who eats what) got there first. There is still 1 flower on the plant, second time lucky? I am keeping my fingers crossed.

As you can't have missed, the club is celebrating its 40th birthday this year. This month we invite club members present and old to come along to our meeting at the Old North Inn, Kiltarlity. Your committee members have put in an effort to collate memorabilia, photos, etc. so we can all do a bit of reminiscing, laugh at our fashion sense and marvel at how young we were. Usual time of 19.30pm, do come along.

See you there,

Trish.

2CV Van



Citroen DS



Margus Deutz



Fortrose and Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Rally

What can I say? Saturday the 31st of August was a very wet day, fairly typical of this summer but it made me think that perhaps one of the reasons we enjoy so many car shows in the north is because of the (usually) drier climate.

The Beetle I entered is normally a dry weather car for me but there was no getting out of this one as I had volunteered to help out at the late entries table. On arriving at the Dingwall Mart around 09:30, I found the place was already busy and your webmaster Callum Beveridge and I prepared to sort out lost, missing or late entries at the information table. The first action was to purchase a roll and coffee. The fringe benefit of this role is you get to meet people. I had a long chat with the North of Scotland Modified Car Club, a classic bike owner, a bus driver who's a serial car restorer and Stephan Kroll and his wife from Berlin who were in the area with their MGB V8 and joined the rally as late entries.



I managed 5 minutes to look at the cars but pretty soon it was time to drive off. Well maybe give it 5 minutes and see if the rain stops. Callum and I were amongst the last to leave but followed the recommended route anyway. There were some

serious puddles to contend with and I was mildly amused of the hissing behind that followed the sploosh of traversing water, a symptom of the sign of a rear mounted engine. I'm very pleased to say the Beetle behaved well. No electrical issues, the screen demisted ok as long as you were travelling – those notorious heater channels managed to supply some hot air. There were no engine hiccups but I did find it quite easy to lock up the front brakes.



On arrival I'm afraid we parked in the wrong pitch (sorry John). I believe there wasn't one car in the designated HCMC area and no shelter either. The club turn out was fairly poor to be honest. Maybe you heard about the rain? This meant that



the Highland Car Club and North of Scotland Modified were out on a limb.

Considering the weather it was impressive how many cars and owners made the effort, I'm guessing around 75% or so. There was plenty to see and a bit of comradery in attending a wet classic car show. Public attendance was down and some of the stalls gave up but I suppose that's to be expected. The most impressive car



at the show was definitely the boat tail Galloway 1925.

I had an interesting chat with one Bill Ross owner of the Riley Pathfinder. He thought that the high compression head on my Dad's old RMB was a 'Silverstone' kit, a sort of dealers homologation special to allow Riley privateers to compete with Jaguar in saloon car racing in the 1950's. Jaguars version of this I'm told was light bodied versions of their cars. Bill, if you're reading this I hope to speak to you again and get my facts straight.



With lower attendance I thought the odds looked good for that malt whisky in the raffle. Or even those wheel trims would do. I wasn't the only one thinking this way and there was a good crowd around the draw. There was some good craic as well. Callum Murray's ticket came up just as he was driving out and he was spotted, hailed and presented without missing a beat. There was some good humoured booing as the whisky (and even the wheel trims) went to someone else. Stephan Kroll's wife (apologies I didn't get her name) won something and was spotted, hollered, presented and applauded. That must be nice and welcoming for a visitor.

So empty handed but not bitter it was time to go home dry out and warm up. The water-logged field was a bit damaged, but I hope nothing that a good lawn roller wouldn't sort out. The stewards did their best by guiding traffic and moving duck



Out and About



I didn't see the day I'd be photographing a Volvo 144!

We had great weather for Farming Yesteryear at Scone and my engine ran faultlessly. The Model T I ton pick-up was running about beautifully and the steamers just oozed, well, steam actually. Two Sentinel wagons side by side, unique for Scotland and they were so well presented.

Both the rare Tornado Talisman and the not so rare Morgan were spotted at garages.

Cheers,

Jim Mackay



Grantown Motormanica

Callum Beveridge

The day prior to Grantown-on-Spey was the wet and muddy Fortrose rally - a damp squib this year where the rain didn't let up for the entire day. So when the morning of Grantown Motormanica dawned to sunshine, it looked as if the weather gods were smiling down on us. The organisation this year seemed a bit haphazard with sporadic parking and conspicuous spaces. The usual mix of classic and interesting vehicles, although the vintage, veteran and exotic were notable by their absence.



What appeared to be an Auburn Roadster was an excellent Tupperware replica with a modern v8 yank lump in it - still a stunning vehicle. The star of the show for me was this understated Mercedes on the Main Street - just lovely...

The farthest end of the town had the usual minis, moggies and dubs of all description including this stunning bus. The numbers appeared to be down on previous years - whether due to the weather or the new inclusion policy, although the odd shower was not enough to dampen the enthusiasm for those present.

A good show - always something interesting. Roll on 2020.



Nairn for Chips

The September club night was to be honest, poorly attended with only six of us turning up for the start at Culloden Battlefield. There was a theme — if your name was Calum or Callum, it was your anniversary and you were at car club instead of being with your partner. After waiting hopefully for any stragglers we set off through Clephan-ton (the road seems to have been re-built!) to Cawdor and picked up the fat road (A939) to head to Nairn.



There was another them to the evening. Can you work out what and who's each of these Fords is?

The chip shop seemed a bit overwhelmed at six of us turning up at once and someone thought the football team was in. Just as well we didn't turn up with a full squad. However their chips were good and we drove down to the harbour to scoff them. I started getting anniversary absentee anxiety and Miles need to get back



home too, so just as the rain came on we left a little on the early side for a wet and dark drive home leaving Ian and Judith on an impromptu romantic sea side date.

I learned something on the way home. I need to improve to Sierras lights, as they weren't the best. 30 year old mirroring is probably to blame.

Calum. (21 years married.)

La Crofterra Pandemonia

The club didn't make much mention of the Highland Car Clubs La Crofterra Pandemonia, I'm not sure why, and it wasn't deliberate. For the unaware this is an overnight car tour based in the Highlands and aimed at the more sporting driver. It looks great fun and some HCMC members took part.



In Our Thoughts. We are sad to report the death of Joan Anderson in a road traffic accident on the B9160 near Rosemarkie on Saturday 21st September. She was the wife of former club member and newsletter editor Craig Anderson. Our thoughts are with him and his family at this difficult time.

Craig said, "All of us are in complete shock at the moment. Joan and I were a couple for 43 years, since our student days in Aberdeen and Joan was the most wonderful wife, mother and grandmother.

"She loved life and lived it to the full. Even at this early stage the many expressions of support and sympathy we have had from friends and colleagues prove how well loved and respected Joan was."

Apology

Some members may have received numerous emails (one per hour) on the 1st September from the automated email validation facility on our website. This was brought to my attention and fixed by early afternoon on that day. This was the first instance of a scheduled email validation that runs each month and went slightly wrong. Again - apologies for the numerous emails. Steps have been taken to ensure that this won't happen again.

Your Webmaster.

Cars and Coffee

During 2019 the iconic Mini reached 60 years old, so to celebrate this in the Highlands of Scotland, "A Mini Takeover" of Cars and Coffee - Inverness was decided upon. September was chosen because it was going to be the best time to get as many Minis as possible together, in the same place at the same time, before they went into winter hibernation again. We were going to need a perfect storm scenario to get every Mini in the Highlands to turn up but we wanted to give it our best shot, so we hit the Internet and put the word out there. To increase the pressure further, I even had the mad idea of having my own Mini restored before the event but more of that another time. All I can say is that John at JW Autobody did a fantastic job and it was only down to his phenomenal efforts that mine made it along on the 8th September at all. He even postponed another job and threw in a hand polish to make sure his work was shown off to its best at Cars and Coffee's "Mini Takeover." The second Sunday of the Month arrived, so I set off round to Roller Bowl in my now gleaming Mini to wait nervously and see if any others turned up. I need not have worried at all. First through the gate was a lovely Riley Elf followed by a bright red Pickup. A bunch of "Inverness Mini Owners Group" Minis was next, fresh from their IMOG road trip to the "International Mini Meet" in Bristol. Mini after Mini

"A Mini Takeover" by Miles.



continued to arrive and the rest of the car park filled up nicely with Cars and Coffee regulars. We had reverse parked all the Classic Minis along the front of the building and by the time number Eighteen was in place it definitely looked like a "Mini Takeover." Nine more modern BMW MINIs had joined in with the takeover as well, including a brand new John Cooper Works Convertible Demonstrator brought along by Emjay, Sales Manger at the local Harry Fairburn MINI Garage. He also had free sunglasses and stickers commemorating 60 Years of Mini to hand out, which just added to the celebration. All in all there were nearly 200 cars parked up in the sunshine between 10am and 12pm making this Cars and Coffee –Inverness about the busiest that we have seen since it started. To round off a great morning, there was then a scenic drive around Loch Ness for anyone that wanted to carry on enjoying the sunshine. This 'Lochnessring" lap was led by the Inverness Mini Owners Group and the convoy of fifteen Minis and a number of other Classics set off at noon, signalling the close of a particularly special Cars and Coffee – Inverness.



Wheels of Nairn

Saturday 21st September



WHEELS OF NAIRN

A Classic & Modern Vehicle
Show

@

NAIRN LINKS

Over 100 vehicles on display with the
backdrop of the stunning Moray Firth



The sun shone for the debut of this new show in the north, making the classics and modern exotica shine and sparkle. You editor could only make a short visit to bring you this report but from those I have spoken to it was a very well organised show in a great location. Here are some pictures from the day.





What a lovely Lotus Cortina, and what I believe is a Hillman Avenger Tiger. A what about this classic? Yes that's Mrs Editor. She's for sale and a bargain at only £8000. No not her, she's a keeper, the Armstrong Siddeley Sapphire 346 MkII.



<- I heard a kid say 'Look that car's got an irn bru can for an engine.'
It's certainly got tin ware.



Laigh o' Moray Vintage Association

22nd Sept 2019

And now for something completely different. Well it's a different kind of show at least. If you like raw power, hot oil and steam (sounds a bit like a fetish) then this is for you.

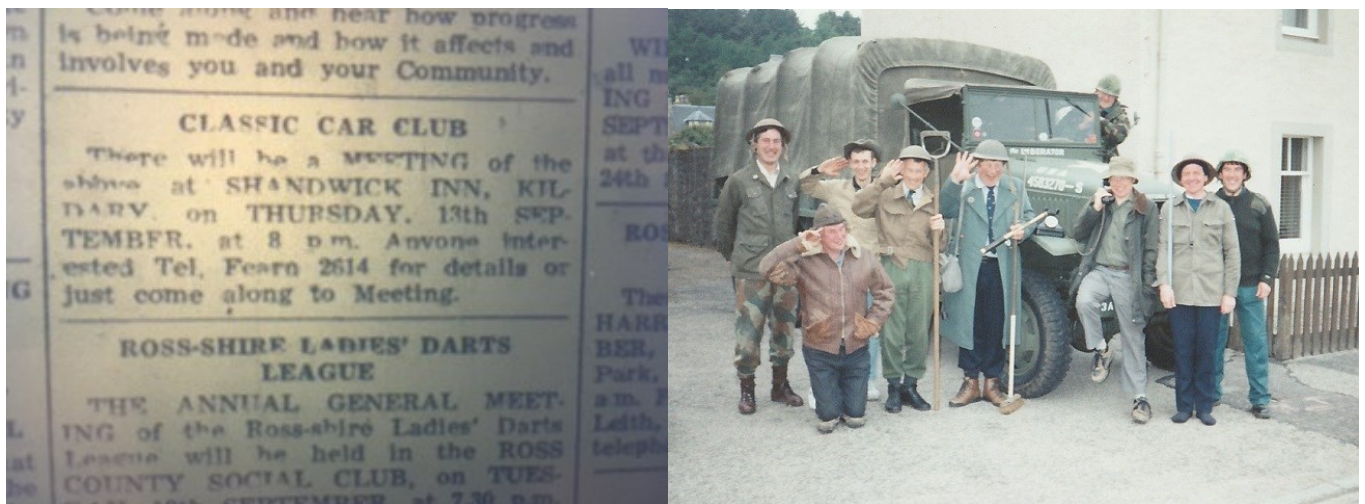
This show followed the Wheels of Nairn show, much like Grantown followed Fortrose. I couldn't make it myself but we had an agent in the field (Douglas Burns) who let us use his pictures.



40th Anniversary Club Night

This is an evening not to be missed. On the 3rd October the club is holding a Ruby Anniversary Social Night at the Old North Inn, Inchmore. Meet up at 19:30. This is an evening to celebrate 40 years of HCMC with memorabilia and the Ruby Newsletter launch night, a magazine produced by your editor to look back at the last 40 years. Reminisce with members past and present about the clubs activities from the near or distant past.

If you know of any former members who you can coerce/force/persuade to attend please extend the clubs invitation. Chloroform and coshes available from a committee member. Joking aside, it would be great to see members from the past, and we promise not to enforce back-dated membership dues.



For Sale



MINI COOPER, 2007 (56 plate), 1600 (non turbo), white & black, 71,000 miles, some history, MoT to March 2020, front discs & pads and front springs replaced this year.

Not immaculate but sound, good-going car in excellent condition for its age.

Looking for £2,300 o.n.o.

Please phone Chris on 01381 621211 or 07850 738107.

LOCAL EVENTS

28th Sep 2019	Agricultural Working Vintage Rally & Display	Daviot Estate, Daviot, Inverness	www.daviotvintage.co.uk Facebook: Strathnairn Farmers Association. Email strathnairnfarmers@hotmail.com 10am - 4pm. £10 per Adult. Free Parking. Displays, Demonstrations and Auction.
3rd Oct 2019	Ruby Anniversary Social Night	Old North Inn, Inchmore	Meet at 19:30 An evening to celebrate 40 years of HCMC with memorabilia and Ruby Newsletter. Reminisce with members past and present.
13th Oct 2019	Cars And Coffee - Inverness	Rollerbowl, Culduthel Rd. Inverness	10am to 12 noon Every 2nd Sunday of the Month. A quiet Social Event for all Car Enthusiasts. Park up, buy yourself a hot drink and snack from Rollerbowl and the check out what's in the Car Park.
7th Nov 2019	Club Night—TBA	TBA	TBA
5th Dec 2019	Xmas 10 Pin Bowling Night	Rollerbowl, Inverness	All HCMC Members Welcome to Spectate or Participate - Bring a Secret Santa Present! We have reserved a number of 10 Pin Bowling Lanes, so the more the merrier. Approximately £6 per head. Meet in Rollerbowl for 7.30pm. Refreshments available at the Bar