

CLASSIC SCENE



October 2024



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Cover Picture

A 1925 Bullnose Morris starring in
the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Classic
Vehicle Rally.

Welcome to the October Newsletter

The highlight of this last month, for me anyway, and probably very few other members, is that I made a club night. The last drive of the year too. And just as well, as without even one glance at my work rota, I had volunteered to organise it. Cue an emergency leave application. Read all about it later. I will say though, there's not much that can beat a club run for Thursday night fun.

The next club night, on Thursday the 3rd of October, is a visit to the Inverness Fire Station, Harbour Rd. It's an early start so please be there at 7 p.m. prompt. Make haste, and if the law stops you and asks 'Where's the fire?' even better. Someone suggested I donate one of my Ford Focus's as a demonstration car to get it's roof chopped off and then set on fire. I'm not keen, and thankfully we don't have a club trailer any more. This isn't one to miss which is annoying as I'll miss it. I'm taking Mrs Editor to Wigtown Book Festival where she may be getting an award or prize or something. At least she'd better, or I'll be saying, 'You know I could have been at Inverness Fire Station with HCMC.' Find out how that went, next month.

Following on from the last newsletter, the Skoda Fabulous now has a new EGR valve fitted. It took me two days! That's it circled in red, behind the engine, as viewed from under the car and over the lowered front subframe. It was as tricky as it looks and thanks to the VW emissions scandal this is the second time I've replaced it. I swear the job went better the first time.



One of the faults was intermittent loss of power, like all the power. It seems the EGR valve was sticking open and diverting exhaust gases into the intake instead of boosting the turbo and it wouldn't go much above idle speed. All good now though, And with some new rear discs and 4 new tyres, hopefully MOT ready. Boy, tyres are expensive these day's aren't they?

Anyway, hopefully after this modern is done I can get back onto the good old, er, old cars. I may break the scrap Focus first and dispose of it to get some space, then it's the Sierra which needs fuel pressure regulator and filter, minor welding and steering stiffness fixed. Oh, and a wash. Then I can go to some car shows in 2025, whilst reviving one of my Minis. You know, depending on what happens at Wigtown.

Why don't you tell me about your winter projects so I can share it in this very newsletter. Which is soon to be runner up best Newsletter at a well known book festival in the South of Scotland. It's in the bag.

See you out there,
Your Editor.

Ramblings from the Chair



This month is a tale of two fuels. At the Fortrose gathering I was sitting behind the Senator and was getting a faint whiff of petrol. Just opposite was a Ford hot-rod that, when started, emitted clouds of fumes so guessed the odour might have been from it. Wrong – when I put my car away, and the following morning my garage stank of petrol – however a quick check underneath, in the engine bay and around the fuel tank didn't reveal anything obvious – all the hoses looked in good condition. Roll on five days to the September meeting and the Black Isle run – tank half full when I left Beauly but just above the quarter by Fortrose with what seemed like a sudden drop coming down the last hill – oh dear! Given the situation (and the dark and the drizzle), I decided to head for home but, surprisingly, no more level drop registering on the gauge. So jacked the back of the car up kind of high and crawled underneath and discovered the vent hose from the tank up to the neck of the filler pipe was pretty rotten at the top. Unfortunately the bottom end seems to be in the very narrow gap between the top of the tank and the bodywork and very difficult to see but in all probability is in the same condition as the top. What I reckon is that when going down a steep hill the fuel rushes to the front of the tank and, I guess, leaking from the hose/ tank connection (the level is not often above half!). A new pipe and clips have been purchased so I will have to get down, right underneath and see if it can be fitted without having to unbolt and lower the tank. Oh the joys.

Now the second tale involves the campervan – after some difficulty in deciding which side the fuel filler cap was on, and a repositioning of the van in busy fuel station (?? – yes, Mrs Chair was correct) we found ourselves at the Ultimate Diesel pump. Not wanting to look complete idiots by re-repositioning, I gave the van half a tankful of the good stuff at 15p a litre extra. However, on motoring down the A1, the engine was really quiet – so much so that even the good lady commented. It's a 2.0 HDi and the normal diesel 'rattle' was very much subdued. Even better, the fuel consumption improved by at least 3.5mpg to almost 40mpg (to be checked over a longer distance) - so I reckon that I will continue to go for the Ultimate, and never mind the cost.

I believe we're at the Inverness fire station at the next meeting on October 3rd (**at 7.00pm**) and might even convert a saloon to a convertible – I'm quite looking forward to the experience and seeing the Fire and Rescue team in action. Hope to see you there.

Regards, Richard

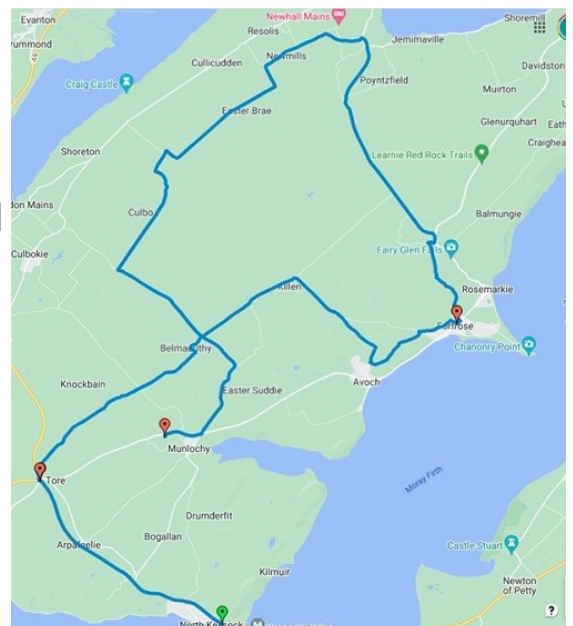
September Club Run - The Black Isle



Ah the best laid plans of mice and HCMC club runs. As usual I was short on time and a little bit high on chaos levels, but I managed to find time to recce a run through the Black Isle. I came up with a theme of lesser travelled roads with great views, and produced a route guide based on pictures of junctions.

I forgot about the nights drawing in. And I didn't predict the misty, dreich weather. So no views, and the pictures were next to useless.

Anyway, it started off well, with a suitably small but wonderfully eclectic group of cars gathered at the Harry Gow lay-by for a prompt departure at 7:30. There was bit of pre-departure banter mainly criticising the lights on Bryan's Stag who claimed the headlights were quite good now. "Is that because the tired springs at the front have made all the electricity go that way?" You get the idea. I led the way in the Beetle, keeping a close eye on the (it's not a) convoy behind, driving at what I thought was a fairly sedate 30 mph. Even at that speed the cars at the back were drifting off, but I spotted this and waited at suitable points for a re-group. This worked well until dusk, and Bryan's actually bright headlights came on and the cars behind were in a black shadow. I also realised that at this speed we weren't going to complete the route I had planned. In summary we went up the A9 from Tore then turned in to follow a back road to Killen, then down to Avoch and the high road to Fortrose which has a spectacular view. Normally. At Fortrose we went up past Campbell's Garage, and the steepest hill in the area. I thought it would add some spice to the run, and it certainly did! Then it was up over to Resolis and a stop at Resolis Hall. It was dusk when we stopped for a regrouping, so we abandoned any





hope of the next leg as it became dark wet, and late, and we decided to head home via Culbokie and the A9.

At the stop, there was more banter and I was enquiring about the pace of the run as I thought it was a little slow. But no apparently it was a little brisk. Brisk! In the Beetle. It's never been called brisk in it's life! It reminded me of a youthful

mealtime conversation when my Dad claimed to have hurtled over a bridge in his Land Rover which caused an instant outburst of laughter and derision from his four children and his wife. You hurtled! In your Land Rover? Five pairs of eyes are wet with tears of laughter.

Anyway back to the club run - everyone seemed to have had a good time, which is the main thing. Here are some more pictures.



Our doors are always open at HCMC



Could this be a Stag do?



Richard's Opel was fuming



Resolis Hall

Dingwall Great Feil Maree and Car Rally



It might be unfair to say so, but sometimes the Dingwall car show seems be one of the smaller events on our classic car calendar, but not this year. It was very popular, and reports came in saying it was even difficult to find somewhere to park.



I think it is fair to say there was something to interest all kinds of car enthusiasts.



Fleeting moments

Trish Brown

Not much to say about our cars this month. We had to fix the rear driver-side indicator on the Landie after it completely failed and that a few weeks before the MOT. On removing the light unit we discovered that the connector was very, very corroded. We dismantled the unit into its components, cleaned everything up, shortened the wires a little to remove the corroded ends and put everything back together again with fresh solder. Indicator is working perfectly again.

We went to Inverness last Sunday following a very nice looking blue Citroen BX (d reg). Not that fast going over the Black Isle but then it was an old fashioned diesel. On the way back we came up behind an Austin7 being towed behind a van. Is this Samantha? Yes it is. As the responsible driver he is, Jim pulled over into a lay-by to let the queue behind him clear.

We've been away for a fortnight and came back to grass in which you could hide a tiger and a courgette that weighed 1.2kg (it was the size of a small apple when we left). There is another one on its way of a similar size. We got a pumpkin the size of a marble. Given that all summer the plant has just been throwing out flowers, this is an improvement.

Whilst away, we came across one example of appalling driving on the A75. On a relatively long straight we could see a queue of cars coming towards us with a truck at the front and a van overtaking. They were still some distance away, so this did not duly concern us. But the van did not seem to make much headway in overtaking and at some point Alice decided to start slowing down. And then brake a bit heavier...brake a lot heavier....steer towards the side of the road. We ended up stopped partly on the verge when the van and queue passed us, although at this point the van was trying to get in behind the truck again. Which he managed some distance further down the road. Just as well there was no-body immediately behind us.

Out and About 1

Moving forwards, courtesy of Inverness BID these Citroen Traction Avant's were spotted in Inverness and pictures shared. I like the grey one. I bet it pulls along



Cars And Coffee

I happened to have some time to go to this month's Cars and Coffee. I drove in a little after 11:00am and it was jaw droppingly impressive, so busy I struggled to park and people milling about everywhere. Wowza.

Last month's pictures were all up in the air, and this month my theme is pictures I took myself. So let's start here...



I was instantly drawn to this Mk1 Focus (I know) but it's an RS! I have one the same colour, and though mine's a diesel it does appear to have a similar interior to the RS.

Next on my 'Oooo look' list was this TVR Vixen. I think it's an S3 and I love it.



There were some Sierra's. The middle one may look like an Escort, but it's really a short wheel base Sierra underneath.



This is the Marina won on a Retrosh!te auction. I'd be pleased with it.





Some fabulous old Fords
And a Vauxhall Astra.
You can decide which is
most stylish.



I learned that August 2025, IMM (International Mini Meeting) will be opening the gates to celebrate the 66th year of the Mini at Laughton Showground, Lewes, East Sussex. Now if only I could get mine going and looking shiny in time. That's a nice but distant corner of England.

Out and About 2



A four wheeled Reliant Robin
on the A9 near North Kessock



There's a spider out
and about. John
Mackenzie spotted
this Daimler Dart
near Crieff and



Fortrose and Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Rally



The 31st of August saw the 20th Anniversary of the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Classic Vehicle Rally. I couldn't make it this year due to being triple booked, so I have stolen pictures from Facebook.

As usual it started off with a meet up at Dingwall Mart and then a wee drive to the King George V Sports Field, in Fortrose, via the Causeway, Cullicudden and Balblair

The Austin 7 Chummy and 1925 Bullnose Morris above both made it under their own steam. Well petrol, they're not that old.



It was a very successful rally, with the field very nearly full to capacity. There were a lot of last minute entries which kept the organisers on their toes, and they did a great job as always. Music was by the Norcon Police Pipe Band, Food was provided by the local Scouts and the Ice Cream stand.



Wheels of Naaaiirnnn

Sat 21st Sept

Aye the nights are fair drawing in, as heralded by probably the last car show of the year.



My Editor's spy described it as not too bad, split into a main field and a clubs area and there was a running commentary on a PA system.



The North of Scotland Audi 80 90 club won best stand so well done them.

I have chosen my favorites from what I have seen online as I wasn't there and no one sent in a report. Naughty membership. So lets start with a Sierra!



There seemed to be a lot of fairly modern cars but there was still enough old stuff to keep your classic car interest fed.



A nice red Triumph 2500 of some flavour, a firm favourite. in the early years of HCMC. An Austin A90 Atlantic and a Singer Gazelle I think. My Dad had one.



Then an AC Cobra, presumably a replica or a very rich owner, and Mini based Ranger Cub three wheeler which has to be pretty rare. Maybe only 6 in the world.



Is this a 1935-6 supercharged Auburn Speedster wow. And a very shiny Rover 12. And a Bentley 4 1/2 litre. Now you may be thinking, 'When did the Editor get so good at naming old cars, because he's normally sh!t3 at it?'

Google Lens dear readers. Google Lens.



HCMC Events

29th Sep 2024 Laigh o'Moray Vintage Association Rally Seafield Park, Keith
25th Anniversary Celebration Rally. Details on "Laigh o'Moray Vintage Association"
Facebook Page. Entry form: <https://forms.gle/qFxXGdxMSjT33csS7>

3rd Oct 2024 HCMC Visit to Inverness Fire Station Fire Station, Harbour Rd. Inverness. Early **7pm Start**, be prompt please.

7th Nov 2024 HCMC Visit TBC. The HCMC November Meeting will be a fascinating visit to some particularly interesting venue.

5th Dec 2024 The HCMC December Meeting is a 10 Pin Bowling evening - Bring a Secret Santa Present! Plenty of Bowling Lanes reserved, so the more the merrier. Approximately £8 per head. Meet in Rollerbowl for 7.30pm. Refreshments available at the Bar.

2nd Jan 2025 The HCMC January Meeting is the Infamous Annual Auction. Time to clear out your garages, attics and sheds to make yourself some money. 7 for 7.30pm Start. Bring Cash and grab yourself a bargain, it's more fun if the Bidding is brisk!