

CLASSIC SCENE



November 2011

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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
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Cover picture

*Austin, aged 10, with his
namesake*

The Chairman's Bit

A bit of a truncated 'bit' this month due to the reasons below.

I had to drive down to the south of England last week to attend a funeral and in the 1200 or so miles I spent on the motorway I; did not see one police car; saw lots of people in the wrong lanes; saw lots of people using mobile phones; did not see one interesting car (until I reached Essex where Bentley Continentals started appearing all driven by blonde, tanned women!).



See you at the meeting next week

Michael
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Wanted

We are getting married next May and we were wondering if any of your members hire our their cars for weddings. We are ideally looking for something like the Jaguar Mark 2 or a 1950/60's era car but not a vintage car.

I will be leaving from my parents house in Inverness and the wedding is at Loch Ness Lodge so it would be better if they were local to this area.

We hope that you may be able to help and look forward to hearing from you.

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This Months Meeting

Thursday 3rd November. Visit to PortalRover in Muir of Ord. Meet there for 8pm.

HIGHLAND CLASSIC MOTOR CLUB

Monthly meetings (1st Thursday of every month)

2011

October 6th	Run to the Struy Inn
November 3rd	Visit to PortalRover, Muir of Ord
December 1st	Christmas Club Night

2012

January 5th	Annual Auction—North Kessock Hotel
February 2nd	AGM and Quiz Night—North Kessock Hotel
March 1st	tba
April 5th	Visit to Moray Motor Museum
May 3rd	Tour of Kinkell Classics
June 7th	Road run to the Altguish Inn
July 5th	Scenic drive to Coul House via Meig Dam
August 2nd	Scenic drive to Whitebridge via Foyers
September 6th	Visit to the Glen Ord Distillery

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

Austin Tens

At the street party for the royal wedding some months ago a guy came up and told me that his son was interested in my old car. Keen to show him around and encourage the youngster I asked him his name "Austin" he replied! "How old are you, Austin?" "10" came the reply. I tracked him down recently and his father took a few snaps of his Austin aged 10 next to my Austin 10!!



Liz Bligh

Editorial

Hello,

Just a short newsletter this month, as most of our motoring activities are tailing off for the winter.

Last months meeting was a pleasant drive to the Struy Inn, where the ale was well sampled. Nice to meet Duncan and his wife (and his Alpha).

Since my return from France, I've rebuilt the steering and front suspension on the Burton and it's now looking unloved on the driveway as the Dyane continues to absorb paint in the garage. I'm still not finished getting all the bits ready, and I'm not brave enough to start making a list of jobs yet to do.

This months meeting is a change to that published last month. I've organised a visit to PortalRover in the industrial Estate in Muir of Ord. If coming from the South, turn right onto the road that takes you behind the showground, and it's well signed—off to the right after 100 yards. The proprietor, Hugh Balfour Paul, has been busy building 6x6 Land Rovers for a Bruce Willis film and he's offered to show us around.



Meet there for an 8pm 'tour'

I'm looking for your articles about owning your first cars. I've started the ball rolling off this months on page 6 with my own humble beginnings and if this gathers momentum, I'll make it a regular feature.

A big 'thanks' to all of those members who have elected to receive this newsletter by email. We've chopped the mailing list in half, which not only makes my life easier, but saves the club a huge amount of unnecessary postage costs.

If you've not yet taken the plunge, you can subscribe by clicking the link on the front of the club website

Callum

editor@highlandclassic.ndo.co.uk

Morgan Wanted

We are in the process of hunting down a Morgan. a Ford engine preferably, dark colour and around £20,000. if you know any please let us know and then we would love to join your club!

Fiona and Andrew
fchighland@googlemail.com



Losing My Motoring Cherry!

As a relative ‘youngster’ within the HCMC, it will come as no surprise that my first car wasn’t in the ‘Black and White’ days, but was a more recent 1976 Citroen Dyane.



Purchased from a ‘bloke at work’ as a rolling chassis, separate shell and various boxes of bits, I jumped at the chance to own my first ‘motor’. A couple of problems presented themselves—firstly, I didn’t have any garage space, and secondly, I knew absolutely nothing about cars!

The first problem was solved when the ‘bloke at work’ said I could rebuild it in its current storage garage, and the second, by attending ‘car maintenance’ night classes at the local college.



I spent the autumn of 1989 re-building the shell (no welder was ever used) honing my chicken-wire and fibre-glassing skills. I also learned how to get wax-oil out of your hair, off pillow cases and off your best work tie!

By the time the night classes had got onto ‘changing the oil’, I’d already stripped and rebuilt my engine on the dining room table, so abandoned those after the first term.

By November, the car had been re-assembled, brush painted (blue to red), MOT’d and was on the road.



Her first major outing was a run from Berkshire to Braunschweig in Germany for a 2CV rally. Here, I discovered a tendency to pull to the right under heavy braking, which was just as well when I undertook the autobahn traffic which had come to a sudden stop in front of me!

I seem to remember that the return journey via Dover required me to drive up a very steep ramp inside the ferry, loaded up with three blokes and more duty-free than was legally allowed. Eventually, the guy

directing the vehicles took pity on my clutch and parked me on the ground floor next to the trucks.
As an exiled Scot, the tailgate was painted



with a saltire, which made the car instantly recognisable from a long way off. I would regularly get into work on a Monday morning and someone would say, “I saw you on the M3 yesterday..about 2 miles in front of me!”

For two years, this fine beast suited my purposes very well, despite having to be hidden in an underground car-park in Reading in 1990 after Scotland won the Grand Slam.

The car was suitably quirky in many respects, having a light-up rubber duck fixed to the dashboard which served as the full-beam warning light. It was also aptly named 'Popeye' as shutting the bonnet always caused one or other of the headlamps to pop out.

Loaded up with two sets of diving gear, the rear fog light had to be rotated to stop it dragging along the road, and going flat-out around

roundabouts caused such a lean that it seemed that the wing mirrors were going to scrape.

The car was a constant source of amusement to all of my Thames Valley ‘yuppie’ colleagues who were into their Golfs and Xr3i’s at that time and couldn’t understand the charm of my Gallic tin.

In the time we were together, I managed to set it on fire once and let it roll over my foot trapping me. On another occasion, I removed the fuel tank to clean it and whilst I let it dry, got on with another job. I ran out of something or other, so jumped into the car and drove half-way into town before it dawned on me why the fuel gauge wasn’t working (the tank and sender unit were still drying on the patio). I managed to make it home, driving very economically before the carb and fuel line ran dry!

Our doomed relationship ended after two happy years when the MOT man and I agreed to differ on what was structural and what was not (he won). By then, my load carrying requirements had increased and I reluctantly became a ‘White Van Man’... but that’s another story!

Callum



The DECEMBER meeting will be at The Old North Inn on Thursday 1st December at 7.30pm and will be the usual informal Christmas gathering that we have all come to know and love over the past few years.

As well as your Festive Cheer you are requested to bring along with you a “Secret Santa Present.” This should take the form of a gift wrapped item that will then be given out to one of the other Club members at random.

The item need not cost more than a pound or two and can even be something that you already have that is just gathering dust in your garage. It can be something humorous or even just something car related!

You will all then receive a gift in return and the hilarity will begin...or the wheelie bin will rapidly fill up! Either way the idea is just to add a little Christmassy twist to what has become a very sociable evening in our calendar.

Festive finger food has been ordered and all we need now is you lot.

So, whether you are one of the “Vintage Usual Suspects”, a “Classic (Lesser-Spotted) Old Timer” or a more recently joined “Modern” Club Member we want to see you all there.

“Other Halves” Welcome....seasonal ties optional.