

CLASSIC SCENE



December 2009

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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,
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Contents

- 3 The Chairman's Bit
- 4 Editorial
- 5 Event Diary
- 6 Seasons Greetings
- 7 Miles Meanderings
- 10 Highland Heaps

Cover picture

*1951 3.4l Jaguar XK120 seen at
Grantown Motormanian.*

THE CHAIRMAN'S BIT

There was an excellent turn out of around 25 to last month's visit to Autohead Recon. The owner Glen and his colleague walked us through the various stages of machining heads and blocks with each machine already set up with work on it. It's re-assuring to see that firms like this can still survive in today's throw away world.

Afterwards a few of us adjourned to the pub round the corner to discuss this further (oh all right; to talk rubbish whilst having a pint).

The tourist season is now well and truly over and I haven't seen anything interesting driving around for a couple of weeks now although I was overtaken on the A9 the other day by a modern Lamborghini going at a wonderfully obscene speed (yes, I know it's wrong but it didn't half look impressive!).

The new look website is starting to look really impressive and is really



worth a browse to look at the changes that have been made. This year's Christmas meet is at The Old North Inn (details elsewhere) so I hope to see lots of you there (free nibbles on the night!).

Finally I would just like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Michael

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This Months Meeting

Thursday 3rd December 7:30 for 8pm. Christmas pub meet at the Old North Inn, Inchmore.

EDITORIAL

Hello,

Last months visit to Autohead was most enlightening. A good evening with a very healthy turnout. This months meeting is a Christmas 'tipple' at the Old North Inn, Inchmore.

A couple of dates for your diary. The ever popular Forres Theme day will take place on May 2nd next year—not it's usual July slot. This is preceded by the Highland Historic Commercial run on the Saturday. More details opposite.

On Jan 20th, there will be a talk by Richard Noble on Operation Bloodhound in Elgin. This should be a good evening, and there's talk of hiring a bus if there's enough interest. Contact me in the first instance.

As Michael has already mentioned, the club website has received a makeover and has lots of pictures and video on it now, as well as an up-to-date events diary and details of all forthcoming events. Visit www.hIGHLANDCLASSIC.ORG.UK and re-acquaint yourself.



It's now be easier to add your photos and videos to the site as well as finding details of future Classic events (Drive it Day for example). If you take photos or video of an event, follow the link on the website to upload them to our 'photobucket' account. The password you'll need is 'xxxxxxxxxx'.

If you don't see me at the monthly meetings, you can write to me at the address inside the front cover, or email me direct at ClassicScene@bevs.org

Callum

For sale

Land Rover series 2

(1960) 2.25.p petrol
SWB, galvanised chassis, one year MOT and TAX many new parts

£1800 ono.

Contact Alice on 01862 832337 or e-mail alicejane@yahoo.co.uk



Local Events Diary

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

Jan

20th 'Richard Nobles Bloodhound Project'. Lecture in Elgin Town Hall. 7pm for 7.30pm. Free lecture by Richard Noble on his Bloodhound Project where he hopes to reach 1000 mph for a new land speed record.

April

25th 'Drive It Day' 2010. Local run to blow away the cobwebs

May

1st Highland Historic Classic Commercial Vehicle Rd Run. Meet in Inverness at 9am for run to Ullapool Contact CharlieMunro21@btinternet.com or 01349 882220

2nd Forres Theme Day (New Date!)

June

6th Fraserburgh Vintage Car Rally

20th Tain Vintage vehicle Rally

July

10th/11th Scottish Transport Extravaganza at Glamis Castle

18th Knockhill Classic SpeedFair

August

1st Moray Muscle Show

8th Historic Wheelsl Rally, Brodie Castle.

28th Fortrose Vintage Vehicle Rally

September

4th Dingwall Street Fair. Contact Donald Mackenzie 01349 861009

5th Motor Mania—Grantown on Spey

Mystery Photo

Can any member name the young man in this photo?

Understood to date from the early sixties and believed to have been taken somewhere in the Highlands.

If you recognise this young man then please contact the editor.



SEASONS GREETINGS



The next meeting will be at The Old North Inn on Thursday 3rd December at 7.30pm and will be an informal Christmas gathering just like last December's meeting.

Following the amazing success of last year (amazing that everyone present remembered to bring one!) as well as your Festive Cheer you are cordially requested to bring along with you a "Secret Santa Present."

This should take the form of a gift wrapped item that will be collected from you and then handed out at random to one of the other Club members present. 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 (although this year we are hoping that the books will have all the pages and the brake fluid will be younger than the Club!).

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 fill up rapidly! Either way the idea is just to add a

little Christmassy twist to the evening. The nibbles have been ordered (don't forget the vegetarian option this year Mike as I've never heard the end of it from poor Callum, who had skipped his tea last year on the promise of food and found 300 sausage rolls between 10 of us - all of them meat!) so all we need now is you lot, see you there....seasonal ties optional!

I know it has got a bit parky out there but hopefully it will not snow this time and we will manage numbers in the double figures, it makes the party games all the more fun! Don't worry, I'm only joking (there won't be any time left after we've all partaken in a few Christmas Carols around the tree!)

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU
ALL!**



MILES'S MEANDERINGS



SatNavs! So whose bright idea was that then? Curse Mr. Tom Tom Garmin or whatever his name was. I haven't had so much disappointment using a battery powered; hand-held recreational device since I scrimped on the Duracell's that time and opted for Tesco's cheaper own brand batteries. My Donkey Kong was never the same! (Maybe that's why it's almost an anagram of SATAN!)

Anyway, with the prospect of a trip to France this Summer, involving an over night drive to Portsmouth to catch a 7am ferry, I finally succumbed and invested in a Garmin Nuvi with preloaded maps of Europe to assist me.

Now, as I know the roads of The Highlands of Scotland like the back of my hand, I have long since needed a map or any other navigational aid to get me around my work patch and it's not exactly difficult to work out the best route along which to head South and venture into darkest England shire.

However, I did what every other road user with a SatNav seems to do and

having pre-set Portsmouth as my destination I duly suckered my new gadget to the windscreen and set off down the A9 following the Yellow (Pink!) Road on the screen. I probably should have been concerned straight away when, although I knew that I was on the A9 my new gismo did not and it insisted that I was on Sir Walter Scott drive until we were about level with Aviemore and thereafter just called it "Road."

The real irritation began when, having negotiated the length of Scotland, a "Low Battery" warning appeared! (The previous irritation had been the annoying female voice that had been bleating at me for the last four hours, until I had finally silenced her with the Mute button having disabled the "I will not alter the SatNav settings whilst the vehicle is moving" instruction!)

How could I have a low battery when the chap in Halfords told me specifically, that as long as it was plugged into my auxiliary power socket (that'll be the cigarette lighter then!) it would charge as I drove along?

This was the moment, passing Carlisle in the dark at approximately 10pm, that I discovered that my unit was obviously faulty and did not charge as I drove along! Can we manufacture nothing of quality nowadays?

Disappointing, but not terminal. Of course I knew to continue down the M6 but isn't it annoying when you are not allowed to tinker, incessantly, with

all the possible functions of some knew toy that you have treated yourself to, for the first few hours after purchased. (Although, if I had tried the Bloody thing out before this journey, I might have been alerted to the fact that it didn't charge properly!)

So I continued onwards for hour after lonely hour. (My passengers having fallen asleep by now, so the other annoying little voices nipping my head had also been silenced. Shame there's no button for that!) Pretty good progress was made on the empty roads, especially now I wasn't being told every 50 yards that I was in what seemed to be a permanent "Mobile Speed Camera" zone!

Only when nearing the South Coast did I start to really miss my electronic buddy. At about 5am, bleary-eyed and hyped up on Red Bull and chocolate I finally had to admit that I was in danger of getting very lost, so an Emergency Plan was formulated.

At the next Services I rushed into W H Smith, grabbed a Road Atlas from the shelf.....checked my route and then.....put it back on display! You didn't think I was going to fork out a tenner on a poxy road map did you; I'd just blown nigh on two hundred quid on a state of the art Garmin window ornament! But I at least now knew how to get to the Ferry Terminal.

My SatNav woes didn't end there though. On returning to Inverness (using nothing but good old fashioned Road Signs; thank goodness I'm fluent in Gaelic – Not!) and no longer

needing a SatNav, I returned to Halfords and was promptly given an exchange unit.

Have you tried getting your money back from one of these chain stores nowadays; apparently it's now assumed that most of the stuff we buy will be faulty anyway and instead of guaranteeing things they just keep exchanging them until one eventually works. If you are unlucky enough to have four faulty ones in a row you may then qualify to get your cash back!

Well this next one wouldn't stay on for more than 10 minutes, so back I went, only to be told that it could be a problem with the voltage of my auxiliary power supply! Well, having removed the offending item from the orifice into which I had inserted it, the Manager then duly replaced it with third unit.

This one we tested by driving to Penrith with recently and although the unit seems to be working fine and I have chosen a male voice to assist me so that I don't feel nagged the whole time, it did throw up a new quirk to theses God forsaken monstrosities. Namely, their inability to direct you accurately to where you wish to go!

Having reached the gates of Centre Parcs it insisted that I still had $\frac{3}{4}$ s of a mile to go and showed the pink line to follow merrily traversing the Holiday Park and trying to deposit me in the housing estate behind, presumably where the Post Code had originally been intended for.

But I did not fall for it (this time) because while trying to locate a Travel Lodge the previous evening I had managed to follow the pink line past the door of the building that I was looking for, through the southbound services, under the M6 on the "Lodge Guests Only" road, alongside the M6, over the M6 and finally into the northbound services. At which point I actually used my own eyes and instincts and realised my mistake!

Apparently I am not the only one getting caught out by these things. The Manager of a Holiday Lodge Park at Whitebridge told me recently, that numerous guests using SatNavs to negotiate the A82 have found that when they reach Fort Augustus (7 miles from Whitebridge) the thing recalculates their route and takes them all the way around Loch Ness instead, adding some 50 odd miles to their journey.

Even just today my Boss phoned me to say that he was on his way to Scrabster to catch the ferry to Orkney and should his SatNav have taken him over the Struy, through Lairg, up Strathnaver and round past Bettyhill instead of just up the A9?

He had quite enjoyed the fast empty roads up to Lairg but was a little disturbed by the state of the single track past Syre and the fact that he couldn't get a mobile signal for about an hour. Maybe now he'll understand why he can't always get hold of me as quickly as he might like and why giving jobs out by Post Codes is fairly useless up here!

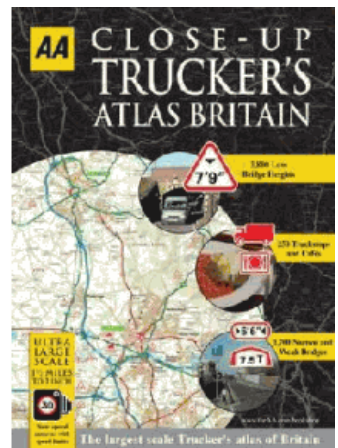
I have, however, found the perfect use for my SatNav in between foreign holidays. The Speedo on my Scimitar gives completely random readings so to take the guess work out of trying to stick to the speed limit (at least in town!) I have employed it for its ability to show my progress in MPH using its GPS capabilities.

Next question; why are modern car Speedos set so far below the actual rate that the car is travelling at according to a SatNav on board? Or are they crap at that too?!

Anyway, the Christmas Season is upon us and this month's meeting at The Old North Inn is sure to be a jolly one. I should see you there, unless I forget that my Garmin Nuvi is only there as a Speedo and by playing "SatNav Post Code Roulette" I've ended up in someone's front garden in the next village!

Miles.

P.S. I've just thought of what I could give away as my Secret Santa Present! Don't forget yours now.



Highland Heaps

Restoration projects spotted in and around the Highlands.



A well-grilled Wolsley



Split-screen Riley



An A30 in disguise



Another Riley

*If you're brave enough to want to rescue one these 'heaps',
contact the editor for more info*



'Tourists' at the Thistle Hotel earlier this year



Fortrose Rally cars at Dingwall Auction Mart



VW spotted at Tesco's