

CLASSIC SCENE



December 2017

Classic Hibernation



CLUB OFFICIALS

Chairman: **Trish Brown**

Tel: 01862 832337

chairman@highlandclassic.org.uk

Secretary: **Alice Brown**

Tel: 01862 832337

secretary@highlandclassic.org.uk

Treasurer: **Ian Thompson**

Tel: 01463 790969

treasurer@highlandclassic.org.uk

ARCHIVIST

The club has an extensive archive of information relating to all aspects of classic car ownership. To access this please contact Ranald Smith at Hawthorn Cottage, 2 Burn Road, Inverness IV2 3NG. 01463 236459
ranaldsmith@btinternet.com

MEMBERSHIP

Bryan McIlwraith

Renewals should be sent to Bryan at 72 Lochalsh Road, Inverness IV3 6HW

Tel: 01463 222839 (Work)

01463 232144 (Home)

bm@invernessosteopaths.co.uk

Please let Bryan know if you have an email address.

HCMC HOMEPAGE

www.highlandclassic.org.uk &

Webmaster@highlandclassic.org.uk

EDITOR

Calum Pearson

Bowersburn, Croftnacreich

North Kessock. IV1 3ZE

Email: editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

CLASSIC SCENE

The next 'Classic Scene'

GOES TO THE PRINTER

on the Thursday of the week preceding the next meeting

Please send articles by e-mail or typed.

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 1988, no part of this magazine may be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the written permission of the Highland Classic Motor Club.

COVER PICTURE

No classic cars on the cover this month. The salt is out and most (not all) of us will be putting our classics away for the winter.

Welcome to the December Newsletter.

Well that's the snow and ice here. I knew I shouldn't have put off painting the Mini's roof but hopefully I'll find a way (electric heater inside the car?) I've a few winter jobs lined up. I hope to improve the Beetles interior, and fix a slight seep in the seam of the petrol tank. The Mini is going to get a suspension alignment, and my boring old Golf is getting a bit of general old maintenance and a service before the January MOT. What are your winter car projects? Let me know at editor@highlandclassic.org.uk

There was a very successful Cars and Coffee in November as reported elsewhere in the Newsletter, although there was one aspect which was a little concerning. A couple of drivers entertained us by doing 'doughnuts' on the public road on the way out. It is not the first time we have had rubber left on the way out and one car very nearly collided with a passing vehicle. While this kind of driving is fun and exciting, it is the kind of thing that will get the event closed down by the police which would be a great shame. The fund raising we did received good coverage and I hope we can continue to maintain a positive image.

I'm pleased to report that the visit to the BBC in Inverness I organised was well received. We were limited in numbers and there was just about enough room for everybody to see and do, so the restriction was for good reason. However if you really feel you missed out please let me know and I can either give you a wee bespoke look around at a mutually agreeable time or if there are enough of you I'll try and organise a return visit, possibly in 2019.

Last of all with the winter months there is less for us to put in the Newsletter so now would be the time for any contributions. And we are looking for more 'Me and My Car' features. Or for the winter what about a 'Me and My Garage'?

Happy classic motoring.

Your editor.

Chairs Bitty

Lingering summer heat means that I could still go for a walk in warm sunshine well into October. Then the clocks go back. The next day there is frost on my car and snow on the Ben. What happened to autumn? I feel like I am in a Monty Python sketch, you know the one from 'The Holy Grail', where "winter turns into spring (ahhh), spring turns to summer (lovely) and summer gives autumn a miss and goes straight to winter (argh)". Then November decides to do a proper job on autumn with lots of wind and rain and at the end of the month chuck some snow at us.

This was all just before our BBC visit which was not just interesting, but fun. After an introductory talk we were shown round by Calum. Some of us had a try at being a newsreader in the radio studio before we went up to try out the TV studio, which is tiny in comparison. What you see on your TV screen, well that is the size of the studio. Something new I learned, the newsreaders desk cleverly hides a pedal so that the newsreader can control the teleprompter (vroom vroom). The studio is controlled from the mixing desk next door in what is just an overgrown cupboard. Calum hinted that a future visit is possible, but you need to register your interest.

Now you hear a lot about road rage and impatient drivers. I see quite a bit of that in Inverness. When traffic lights go to amber it seems to be a signal for putting your foot down. More often than not from a distance at which the driver has more than enough time to come to a controlled stop, so no excuses there. And scary when a tanker decides to run the lights, just as the traffic starts moving.

You know of the roadworks on the Cromarty Bridge and the traffic signals there. I am amused by how many drivers pre-select the outside lane from several hundred yards back and are then surprised when the lights go to red (especially later at night when the signal is controlled by volume of traffic – and when you are in the other lane, there is no volume on the nearside is there!).

The other night coming home from work I did my usual by staying on the inside lane right up to the lights when the lights turned red. As the traffic through the lights were going at walking pace, I was pretty much at a stand-still anyway. I am now the first one at the lights, good for a quick getaway. Impatient Man 2 cars behind me – in the outside lane off-course – wasn't going to pull in and went through the red. So did another 3 cars from 50 or so yards further down the queue. Racing to catch up with the traffic going through the roadworks. These are times that I am thinking "hmm dash-cam..." but I don't have one.

So here we are, it is now looking more like winter with frequent snow showers. This will not stop you from coming to this month's meet at the Old North Inn at Kiltarlity, will it?

Bring your good cheer and a simple gift for a fellow member which Santa will re-distribute on the night. Bryan is hoping to organise a quiz for additional merriment. Do come along as this could turn into real good fun. This is not a bribe, but there will be some nibbles on the night. If there is a real, real good reason for not being there, may I wish you a happy Christmas.

Trish Brown



Car of the month. Riley RME

Spotted at this month's Cars and Coffee was Roy MacGregor's very lovely Riley. There were some other lovely cars that caught my eye including an immaculate Ford Fiesta XR2 but it was this car that stood out to me. Respect to all those that took their pride and joys along salt treated roads to attend this Children in Need fundraiser. More on that later.

The RME was an updated RMA. It still used the 1.5 L four cylinder engine and featured a fully hydraulic braking system. The body had an enlarged rear window with curved glass. To improve acceleration the rear axle ratio was changed from 4.89:1 to 5.125:1.

An RME tested by 'The Motor' magazine in 1952 had a top speed of 75 mph and could accelerate from 0–60 mph in 29.5 seconds. A fuel consumption of 25 m.p.g. The car cost £1,339. but who cares about statistics with those lovely lines?

Cars and Coffee

Children in Need Fundraiser

Cars And Coffee - Inverness for "Children In Need" was a phenomenal success with a huge turnout of cars and people at Cafe V8. Donations on the day and from the Highland Classic Motor Club mean that we have managed to Bank over £1000 for the Charity so far. Well done everybody. Special mention must go to Callum Beveridge who did a fantastic job of decorating his Citroen Dyane as "Pudsey's" Car and having Tally, daughter No.3, dress up as "Stigsey" after the Real Pudsey couldn't make it along. Calum Pearson must be mentioned for manning the 'Merchandise Table' and Graeme Bremner who helped with parking duties and kept us all topped up with Coffee. From the moment I arrived and parked next to Calum P's 'Beetle with Ears' it was go, go, go.

We were really busy, with over 75 cars arriving some for the first time included a Lotus Evora, Alfa Romeo 4C Spider, a trio of tuned off-roaders, a Caterham and a BMW i8 to name a few.

We were also pleased to welcome Roy Macgregor in his Riley and Willy in his Morris Minor, although Willy did decline to join the Loch Ness Run as his alternator had failed. I do hope he made it home ok!



There has been great feedback about this Cars And Coffee, with much coverage on social media, The Inverness Courier and BBC Scotland. And even a BBC One Show mention, which brings me nicely to the reason that we made this special effort - Shona Beveridge. This amazing young lady completed their 500 mile "Ride To The Clyde" Rickshaw challenge and has helped raise well over £5,000,000! See you all in December. Miles.

Callum Beveridge continues

To round off the morning's event, Stigsy and I lead about 17 cars on a scenic tour of Loch Ness. A succession of tourist rental cars plodding along managed to keep everyone to a speed that I could just about maintain in the Burton.

We stopped for chips in Fort Augustus, before heading back via Whitebridge and Dores Inn. We were often above the snowline and saw fantastic scenery – as always on that road.

It was an amazing day and thanks to everyone for coming along and supporting Children in Need. Thanks also to the Inverness Kart Raceway who kindly lent us a racing suit and helmet for the day for 'Stigsy'. A big thank-you to everyone who helped out and made the day so successful.

The Children In Need team were so taken with the photos of the event that I was put on the spot on the Friday night Rickshaw Challenge event, and managed to get in a name-check for the Inverness Cars & Coffee group – with a photo of us all on live TV – I hope it didn't sound too cheesy!

Shona is now back from the Rickshaw Challenge - at home, resting. I did offer to get her a rickshaw for Christmas – but the look she gave me would suggest that she's not too keen on that idea!





For the HCMC October Meeting a small group of us were treated to an extremely interesting tour of the BBC Scotland building in Inverness by our esteemed Newsletter Editor Calum Pearson.

After gathering in the Green Room for a brief and informative History lecture about BBC broadcasting in Scotland we were asked if we wanted to play on the Radio. Well we didn't need asking twice and, after splitting into two groups, volunteers took to the Studio mic, while others gathered in the Control Room to watch Calum put them through their paces as Newsreaders. Their task was to read out recent News Stories as corresponding recordings of interviews and opinions were faded in and out between their talkie bits, just like a real News Bulletin. They did well to hit their cues and pace themselves to fill the airtime, all the while under the scrutiny of their peers. Alice easily slotted back into Presenter mode having worked on a number of local radio stations and Alan impressed us enough that there was a suggestion he get his own HCMC Programme as a platform to broadcast his numerous tales on. Now where's that fader?



Next, for those of us with more than just a face for Radio, we headed into the TV Studio for our close-ups. Hillary was persuaded to take to the hot seat while the rest of us blundered about blocking camera angles and invading shots as Calum tried to explain the technicalities of it all.

Next door, the gallery entertained the more technically savvy of the group with its plethora of screens, switches and knobs, so something for everyone so far.

We gathered back in the Green Room for a further Q & A session and then watched an interesting old video of a programme about the evolution of radio broadcasting in Scotland as further groups were taken off to see Calum's working domain and piece de resistance in the basement. To me, it looked like the wiring spaghetti junction behind my television multiplied tenfold, but to the computer geeks amongst us it was some sort of Nirvana, with banks and banks of computers and relays and switching units all whirring away.

Time had really flown by so, having dragged everybody back upstairs, the traditional Club "Thank You" was dished out to Calum and we all departed, having had a thoroughly entertaining evening. Thanks Calum.

Reporter - Miles Vincent



Is your Historic Vehicle 'Substantially Changed'?

Classic cars over 40 years old have been exempted from the annual MOT test from 20th May 2018 but it will only apply to vehicles deemed not to be 'substantially changed' from standard specification.

If your car is deemed to be substantially changed, it could end up wearing a Q-plate and not qualifying for historic vehicle status or MOT exemption.

The Department for Transport is proposing to change the way this assessed from the 8 points system (Body 5, Axles 2, transmission 2, steering 2 and engine 1) to being defined as vehicles with an increased power/weight ratio of 15% or more.

Keep an eye on the FBHVC for updates.

Roadworthiness testing for vehicles of historic interest.

<http://www.fbhvc.co.uk/legislation-and-fuels/recent-consultations/file/237/vehicles-historical-interest-impact-assessment-pdf/>

Response to Roadworthiness testing for vehicles of historic interest consultation.

<http://www.fbhvc.co.uk/legislation-and-fuels/recent-consultations/file/241/fbhvc-rwt-consultation-response-pdf/>

Press statement from the FBHVC on the DVLA / DoT announcement.

<http://www.fbhvc.co.uk/about-us/news/article/122/statement-from-fbhvc/>

Editors views.

How do you measure a 15% power to weight increase? In the Highlands?

Is a highly modified classic to be MOT and VED exempt as long as it's within the 15% power to weight increase but an otherwise standard MGB not?

What about Hot Rods and specials?

I don't want to be MOT exempt anyway but losing VED exemption is annoying when you have so many to tax and I would be extremely vexed to lose my registration number to a Q plate.

Will we still be able to get an MOT for modified classic without travelling far?

What are your views? Send them in.

Jag och Min Bil

Car: 1972 SAAB
96

Owner: Derek
Darnell

Type: 2 Door
Saloon

Engine: 1498cc
V4 65 bhp

0-60: Allegedly

16.5 seconds, though it depends whether you mean 60 on the speedo or on the sat-nav.

Top Speed: 96 mph (appropriately enough) - barely quick enough to out-run an elk.

How long have you had it? December 2005 (the longest I have ever had a car.)

What work have you (had) done? Resprayed when I bought it; a few minor bits of welding over the years; replaced the original FoMoCo carburettor with a single-choke Weber three/four years ago and dramatically improved the starting, idling and responsiveness !

What do you like about it? It's fun to drive (especially the freewheel gearbox), a 'distinctive' colour, and you don't see many on the road.

What makes it a classic? See previous answer (plus Saab rally heritage and 'quirkiness')

What other cars do you own?

- Fiat Ducato / Avondale Seascope motorhome (2004) - which has been over the Alps to Italy and did the Channel Tunnel, Ypres, Hamburg, Stockholm, Stavanger and Rotterdam in a single trip in 2014 !

Land Rover Discovery Sport (2017)- which hasn't (yet).



LOCAL EVENTS

7th Dec 2017	Pub Quiz	Old North Inn, Inchmore	Pub night with motoring related quiz.
10th Dec 2017	Cars And Coffee - Inverness	Henderson Road, Inverness	
4th Jan 2018	Club Auction night	Old North Inn, Inchmore	
1st Feb 2018	Club AGM	Old North Inn, Inchmore	2018 AGM. Come along and determine the direction the club takes.

Xmas Meeting

7th Dec 2017 Old North Inn, Inchmore.

Featuring ...

Secret Santa! Bring along a wrapped present. You can recycle last year's unwanted present or buy a new one but don't spend more than a fiver.

Quiz! With easy-peasy questions, some absolute stinkers, and a festive element too.

Food! Sandwiches and nibbles available on the night.

See you there, Bryan.