

CLASSIC SCENE



December 2021



Club Officials

Chair: **Trish Brown**
Tel: 01862 832337
chairman@highlandclassic.org.uk
Secretary: **Bryan McIlwraith**
Tel: 01463 222839
secretary@highlandclassic.org.uk
Treasurer: **Ian Thompson**
Tel: 01463 790969
treasurer@highlandclassic.org.uk

Membership

Bryan McIlwraith
Renewals should be sent to Bryan at
67 Lochalsh Road, Inverness IV3 8HW
Tel: 07821 260774
bryanmcilwraith@gmail.com

Webmaster

www.highlandclassic.org.uk
Webmaster@highlandclassic.org.uk

Editor

Calum Pearson
Bowersburn, Croftnacreich,
North Kessock. IV1 3ZE
Email: editor@highlandclassic.org.uk
Classic Scene is published on the
Thursday preceding the monthly meet-
ing. Please send articles by post or
email to addresses above.

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, In-
verness IV2 4NG. 01463 236459
ranaldsmith@btinternet.com

Copyright

Neither the Editor nor the Officers of
the Highland Classic Motor Club are
necessarily in agreement with opin-
ions expressed in this magazine.
Such opinions are entirely the views
of the author and imply no recom-
mendation 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

I had no difficulty in choosing a cov-
er picture this month. Our Miles Vin-
cent has yet again organised dona-
tions for Mission Christmas, part of
Moray Firth Radio's Cash for Kids.
Many children miss out on Christmas
gifts and this charity helps out. Cars
and Coffee even got a 'shout out' on
the wireless.

Welcome to the December Newsletter

Firstly apologies for missing the quiz night. Although attendance was low fun was high. More on that in this newsletter.

In your editors garage there has been much wailing and gnashing of teeth. As you may recall from previous writings, I bought a spare Focus to temporarily replace this Focus so I could refurbish the rear suspension and leave Mrs Editor something to drive. The MOT prep was going well, and the front suspension and steering has been rejuvenated with many new parts.

However one morning as Mrs Editor was returning to Croftnacreich there was a bang and scrapping noise as the car broke down about a quarter of a mile from home. One rear wheel was now at a jaunty (positive spin) 30 degree angle. I popped home from work to move it but no luck. Much later that evening I returned, armed with ratchet straps and blocks of wood, but no, I kept failing and reversing back to the handy parking space. Hold on a minute I thought... I know... so I reversed all the way home using the fog light to light the way.

And of course, you've guessed it, one of the suspension arms snapped. I wasn't even very rusty so I suspect to metal fatigue because of sized bushes. So on another positive spin I had no choice but to do the rear suspension rebuild. Now.

A couple of hours and the subframe was off the car, but it took longer to dismantle it, 160,000 miles meant more than half the bolts needed to be cut off. So that was a very physical 6 hours or so. I still have the trailing arms to take apart too!

I have an appointment with Highland Blast down at Invermoriston to get the main frame cleaned up after which it will be painted chassis black. Replacement suspension arms are on the way, and bar a few nuts and bolts it should be ready to go back together before the next MOT.

Is it worth it? Well probably not, but the car is in quite good condition underneath (update - no it's not. I've been welding all day) and it is an emerging classic.

I don't have much else to say, as I haven't been doing much else!



All the best,

Your Editor

Chairs Bitty

Thanks to Bryan for organising the quiz last month. The quiz had a good variety of car related subjects including local road numbers, who invented what, the year some motoring item was introduced and fact about this years grand prix. After a good start in round 1, Alice and I managed to finish a creditable equal last (well, somebody has. I remember some years ago coming last in a quiz and winning the wooden spoon – I still use it). One team managed to score a whole zero in one of the rounds and still not end up (equal) last, but neither did they win. In good car club tradition the quiz winners in Team 3 (Zac, Ian and Mike) offered to organise a quiz next year – we'll keep you to that.



You may remember that back in the October magazine there was a mystery car and I rashly promised an apple pie to the first person to make a correct guess. Well I can reveal that the mystery car is(ta ta daah)....(drum roll).... a VW Passat 1.8T. Sadly there were only 2 guesses and both were wrong, although one guess was the right country.

I mentioned last month that the Government, as of 15 November, were about to add the +E on new drivers licences, supposedly in an effort to help the “we need truckers” situation. No sooner did I say that when the Government at the very last minute decides to delay this indefinitely. In itself not really an issue, except that the Government seems to have overlooked that the testing for +E was scrapped on that date. Apparently the farming community is now tearing their hair out as any new farmhands that don't have an existing +E on their licence, can't get one either. You can take driving lessons, but not take the +E test.

Another Government thing (Scottish this time) that is looming at the time of writing is the proposed Covid Pass. I am not keen on this one, certainly the bit about privacy and data retention are not to my liking. The other thing about the proposed pass is that not taking one would instantly label me as a second class citizen and I strongly object to that. What is the next thing? Those not having a pass should wear some kind of badge?

On a less controversial note, in our indoor garden the tomatoes are about to come to the end of their life. The last 2 tomatoes will be eaten this week, after which the plants will go onto the compost heap. The walls have gotten a bit green where the tomatoes have rubbed on them. I managed to wash most of the stains off, but especially around the window it is looking a bit worse for wear. A quick lick of paint will be required before I can rehang the curtain.

This year we are having our Santa meet up at Rollerbowl. I believe that the club has tentatively booked a few lanes for those members who want to have a game (£6). We intent to have a secret Santa as well and Santa will drop by to re-distribute these presents. Covid pass burach pending.

See you there.

Trish.

November Quiz Night

Only 12 people plus host, quiz setter and organiser Bryan McIlwraith turned up for the quiz night. However various sources report that it was a good laugh.

The winners were, Zack, Ian Beaton and Michael Fraser who have agreed to compile next years quiz.

The other teams were Judith & Ian Thomson with Richard Lashley, Callum Beveridge and Ian Hazel, Trish and Alice and Tom McCallum with Mark Wilson

The scores were fairly evenly distributed as many of the questions were deemed unanswerable, even by the quiz master himself! I bet that kicked the banter off but then, I guess you had to be there.

December Quiz

A little quiz to entertain you. The first letters of each word ponder the nature of being.

1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													
11													
12													

- 1 Sorceress drives sports car
- 2 Pull this from the stone and you'll be king
- 3 Relating to dance
- 4 Before the flood
- 5 Early design
- 6 Maintains stable internal condition

- 7 Donovan and Cold Play sang this colour
- 8 Stately Spanish dance
- 9 Living dinosaur
- 10 Geological period
- 11 Insectivore comes first in dictionary
- 12 Brain surgery flew over the cuckoo's nest.

If you can copy out the grid and send it to me at bryanmcilwraith@gmail.com the first correct entry will win a bottle of wine.

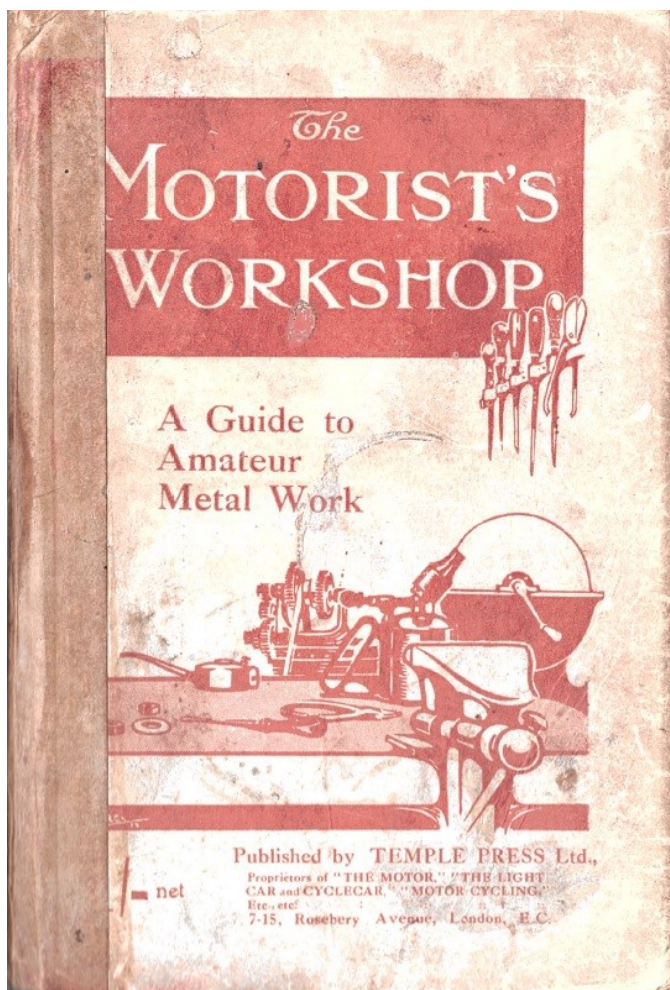
Out and About

As the nights draw in there seems to be less to see out and about, but at least I haven't seen a gritter yet. I spotted an interesting Morris Minor Pickup on Milburn Road but didn't get a snap. Fortunately regular contributor Jim Mackay had one in his archive.



Even Jim hasn't got much for us this month, and in his own words is reduced to sending a friend's friend's Mk2 Jag in. Apparently it sounds lovely.





A friend found this book and gave it to me. It's an absolute time warp of excellence.

THE MOTORIST'S WORKSHOP

CHAPTER I

WORKSHOP AND FITTINGS

MOTORISTS' workshops are of all sorts and sizes. Some of us can afford to have a shop finely equipped with machine tools, which usually means employing men to look after them; but most of us have to make the best of existing accommodation, get together our tools as we go along, and learn to do everything for ourselves, from a brake adjustment to a complete mechanical overhaul. Each job that is tackled successfully gives us confidence for the next, and the next, again, brings new experience; and so we go on, growing so much fascinated with the work, perhaps, that we take an engineering course in order to pursue our hobby more thoroughly, till we become very critical of our work, and of other people's work, and do not feel really comfortable on a long run with a motor we have not had to pieces and assembled ourselves. Even if it is a new machine, and driven by somebody else, we feel we should be happier if we could take down the sump, go over the lubrication and clean the filter, peep in the gearbox, and have a look in the back axle. The other man is always so careless, and very likely attended to none of these things!

1

A



The C.A.V. Variable Speed Dynamo

is a simple shuntwound machine, self-regulating, there are no cut-outs, no governors, no platinum contacts, no slipping clutches, no resistances; in fact, no complication of any sort, just a perfectly made machine with one moving part—the armature



DYNAMO CAR - LIGHTING SYSTEM

whether for Light Car or Limousine, in each component:— Dynamo, Switchboard, Accumulators, Head Lamps, Side Lamps, Tail Lamp, Interior Lamps, is a typical example of the engineer's ideal—Efficiency, based on the bed-rock of simplicity

Take the Daylight with You, and at Night see well ahead in a *Better Light*

The BLUE BOOK of CAR-LIGHTING brim full of useful information from cover to cover post free to any address

C. A. VANDERVELL & CO
Electrical Engineers,
ACTON, LONDON, W

I love these introductory words. I believe it's still true that great enjoyment can be found driving a car you've taken apart and put back together.

The period adverts are very interesting too. C.A. Vandervell are worth a quick Google.

I hope to include some more excerpts from this classic over the winter months.

Cars and Coffee

Another apology from your editor for not attending this months Cars and Coffee, but I was stuck in the garage. Plus I was home alone looking after three dogs while simultaneously washing my hair. Well one of those is a lie.

I'm told that it was a bit of an epic with the attendance of Alex Orchin, who is driving 'Britain's Biggest Journey in the World's Smallest Car.' Raising money for Children In Need, another of our favourite charities here at HCMC.



This was picked up by Practical Classics and Alex's journey has attracted a lot of national news coverage. He has been making a video diary which you can watch on YouTube Search for 'The UK in a Peel P50'

Lest we forget it was Remembrance Sunday, and a moments silence was followed by Alex playing the pipes, begging the question, 'Where does he keep them?'

In other news it was the first weekend of our usual MFR Cash for Kids - Mission Christmas appeal which was so successful it earned Cars And Coffee a mention on the radio.

More details on both these stories and ways to donate can be found on the clubs Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/HighlandClassicMotorClub>





Is that Mile's Mustang? No, too stripey. Is that his Scimitar? No, not enough vinyl.



Austin Healey 6

Jim MacKay

The title might suggest a 6 cylinder Healey but it is a four cylinder model and , if I am sufficiently diversified, I might even reach article 100 which is what these models came to be called to differentiate them from the later 100/6 and 3000 models.



The split chassis rail and twisted suspension mount was dealt with a jack and a big hammer . Actually, I just added the big hammer for effect. Probably, I used some heat but it was such a long time ago. The front and rear cross members were strengthened to cope with a hydraulic jack which will be used to raise this

very low car sometime in the future. You may notice that I don't have many images of my welding. A former colleague used to state that welding didn't have to be pretty to be strong and I take great comfort from that philosophy. In my defence, I couldn't justify too much grinding for fear of upsetting my neighbours. It was to be out of sight, painted and sealed and would only be on show if I rolled the car and by then I'd be past caring!



Cheers, *Jim MacKay.*

HCMC December Club Night

2nd Dec 2021 Xmas 10 Pin Bowling Night at Rollerbowl, Inverness. 7.30pm.

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. Refreshments available at the Bar.