

HIGHLAND MOTORING

The Newsletter of the Highland MGOC

www.mghighland.co.uk



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EDITORIAL

With the Doune event close to the end of September and the Autumn Amble close to the beginning of October, it seemed to make sense to combine both months in to one newsletter as there was otherwise no 'news'. So this newsletter contains reports on both events. Importantly, we have been invited to a new event on **Saturday, 28 October at Muir of Ord**. We've also been invited to support **Cars & Coffee** at the V8 Café in Inverness – more details below. In the spirit of planning ahead, we've made outline arrangements for the **2018 Autumn Amble**.

Richard Jenner

EVENTS NEWS

We've been asked as a club to support an event in aid of **Marie Curie** on **Saturday, 28 October** at the Black Isle Show Ground (Muir of Ord). Officially described as the Winter Scale Model Show, Food & Craft Fair, there will also be 'vintage' vehicle displays which is where we come in (with MGs of any age). Around 8 of our members have said they are interested in attending but not surprisingly, most are waiting to see a weather forecast before committing. If you do decide to come, please let me (Richard) know. There are no passes required, just say you are a Highland MGOC member at the gate. The events runs from 10 am to 4 pm. This link gives you an idea of what it's all about: <https://m.facebook.com/wintermodels/>



Cars & Coffee is a recent initiative held monthly every 2nd Sunday from 10 am to 12 pm at the Café V8, Henderson Drive, Inverness. There is no need to book, just turn-up in your MG. There is a website of course: <https://www.facebook.com/carsandcoffeeinverness/>



The **2018 Autumn Amble** will build on the lessons learnt from the very successful 2017 event (report below). We are heading to **Ayr** on **Wednesday, 3 October and staying for 3 nights (heading home Saturday 6th)**. Stuart (Brock) has reserved 8 rooms at the 4* Westernhouse Hotel for the special rate of £390/couple for 3 nights' bed, breakfast & dinner or £300/single for the same package. The hotel website is here: <http://www.westernhousehotel.co.uk>

The intention is to visit the World UNESCO Heritage Site at New Lanark on the Thursday: <http://www.newlanark.org/world-heritage-site/>



The suggested visit on Friday is the nearby (to Ayr) Culzean Castle:
<https://www.nts.org.uk/Visit/Culzean-Castle-and-Country-Park>



There are various options for a visit on the journey to Ayr on the Wednesday and these include the Riverside Museum:
<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/riverside/about/Pages/default.aspx>
Or Pollok House <https://www.nts.org.uk/Visit/Pollok-House/> Or the Scottish Maritime Museum, Irvine: <https://scottishmaritimemuseum.org/irvine-2/>

If you want a room to be reserved **please contact Stuart** (contact details in the 'box' on page 1); there is no need to make a deposit at this stage.

The **Orkney Odyssey** has 6 cars booked on. The May 2018 ferry timetable is not available yet but it's likely to be a departure around 1330 (check-in around 1245). The Chichester MGOC are doing the North Coast 500 at the same time and have asked if some of us could meet them at John o' Groats around 11 to 11.30 am on the 18th on our way north. Subject to actual ferry times, this may be possible.

The **Spring Saunter** also has 6 cars booked on but there is still some room left at the hotel (1 x twin, 1 x family, 2 x single). Details are: a 3 day, 2 night, affair based in **Lairg** starting on **Friday, 20 April and finishing on the Sunday (22nd)**. We've an arrangement with the **Lairg Highland Hotel** (<http://www.highland-hotel.co.uk>) who are offering the following accommodation on a dinner, bed & breakfast deal. Dinner will be a set 3 course meal with a choice of 3 items/course (*total* means that's what you pay for your room and meals per couple for 2 nights for doubles & twins and per person for singles):

Single Rooms @ £154 total

Twin Room @ £300 total

Family Room @ £320 total (based on 2 sharing – this room can be used as a Double or Twin)

Bookings should be made directly to the hotel (01549 402243) quoting 'MG Car Rally' and by providing card details but please inform me too (r.h.jenner@btinternet.com) so I know who to include in emails about the details.

Please note that all members are very welcome to join any of the multi-day events for a day or an evening – contact me (Richard) for itineraries.

EVENT REPORTS

The **Gathering of the Clans** at Doune on 24 September was very well supported by the Highland MGOC with 9 MGs on our stand (including 2 'country' members – friends of Peter). It was rather wet! Our gazebo did sterling service and there were plenty of MGs to see but, sadly, the overall numbers were well down compared to 2016. Some pictures by Tim (Moore).



Our stand (minus Nick & Patsy who were still to arrive)



The 'T' series were the only 'square riggers' that could stand rain

On the previous day, a few of us made a private visit to **Dreadnought Garage** where we were well hosted by **Brian & Paul Luti**. Brian knows everything there is to know about 'K series' engines.



Paul was working on his ZR170 fitting a new brake servo.



One week later he was the ZR 170 2017 (MGCC Trophy Class B) Class Champion and the runner-up in the overall championship.

The **Autumn Amble** set a number of firsts: it was the furthest away (from Inverness), the longest (3 nights/4 days) and the biggest continuous presence (8 cars – 7 MGs and 1 Jag). For most of us this was our first experience of the new stretch of A9 dual and the Queensferry Crossing.



MGF on the Queensferry Crossing snapped by Christine Moore in the CGT.

Three cars met-up at the Rosslyn Chapel on the way south for an excellent tour. The whole team (14 members) then met-up at the Carfraemill Inn, not far from Lauder, where we were very well looked after in this busy venue with our own dining room for our dinners (smaller portions were requested after our first meal!).

Friday's trip was to the Museum of Flight at East Linton. Richard showed how accurate SatNav can be by putting-in the Myreton Motor Museum post code rather than the Museum of Flight postcode resulting in a feeling of déjà vu as we went round a roundabout for a second time (but from a different direction) having arrived at our initial destination which involved a lot of sprouts and potatoes. Still all was not lost (literally) as Stuart & Margaret and Willie & Margaret visited Myreton after the Museum of Flight and pronounced it delightfully quaint.

The Museum of Flight were expecting us and agreed that we could drive to the Vulcan for a group photo.



The Museum exceeded most expectations and we can all say we've been on Concorde now!



On Saturday, a visit to Abbotsford, one-time home of Sir Walter Scott, got a unanimous vote and seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. A dull day then brightened to brilliant sunshine as we split-up to make individual visits to places in the Borders.

This was Scott's view:



Everyone had a safe and uneventful return on the Sunday – a tribute to well maintained and driven cars.

And Finally, (from Peter Poole)

An old guy on a scooter pulls up alongside a young guy driving a Ferrari. "Nice car" says the old guy. "How fast can she go?" "220 mph" replies the young guy. Just then the light changes, so the young guy decides to show the old guy what the car can do. Within 10 second she's doing 100 mph. Suddenly, he notices something in his rear-view mirror gaining on him. Then WHOOOSH, it whips right past him. Sure enough it is the old guy on his scooter. Astounded, the young guy floors it and the car all the way up to 220 mph. Sure enough, the old guy is right on his tail, but this time he ploughs right into the back of the Ferrari. The young man says "Omigod is there anything I can do?" "Yes!", the old guy gasps painfully, "UNHOOK my braces from your door mirror."