

HIGHLAND MOTORING

Highland MG Owners' Club Yearbook 2021
www.mghighland.co.uk



A 3 MG Drive it Day

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EDITORIAL

2021 started in lock down but then the vaccines began to roll-out and things looked a bit more hopeful. Sadly, restrictions started to ease a little too late for the Spring Saunter and the FBHVC asked classic car clubs not to have a group Drive it Day; however, with 3 households allowed to meet outdoors, a 3 MG drive did go ahead. With a further easing, we were able to put on a May Meander at short notice which was a great success and properly marked the beginning of what was a good year of MG activities, even if car shows were thin on the ground.

Richard

This year's activity by Richard Jenner, Events Coord

May Meander, 12 – 14 May

A very enjoyable May Meander.



We had 8 MGs doing the whole tour and 4 more who joined-in on the first day including recent members, Theresa and David Godfrey

with a very nice MGA (with the hardtop – photo Tim).



Wednesday was VERY wet in the morning ensuring everyone had a dirty MG but it cheered-up in the afternoon for an excellent visit to the Highland Folk Museum.



Thursday was a dry day for the visit to the Strathspey Railway Engine shed organized by Nick (T) where we were privileged to see the Black Five fired-up for the first time in many years and moved out of the shed – still in primer. The loco passed inspection and is now fully painted and looking magnificent.

We then had a scenic drive for a private visit to the Ballindalloch Castle gardens.



We dispersed on Friday and 4 MGs enjoyed a spirited drive from Newtonmore to Spean Bridge before heading off in various directions for home. Full marks for the Highlander Hotel in Newtonmore (as recommended by Patsy T – due to the **'rules' we had the surreal experience of outdoor drinks in a hailstorm!**), the Nethy House Cafe, the Lagmore Cafe (best toilets in Scotland) and the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge who have the best organized outdoor seating.

Day Run 22 May

This was a run from the Highland Cafe, Dingwall to Dornoch via the Struie and Bonar Bridge. After a damp start, the day improved somewhat. Sadly, the coolant leak on the Midget 1500 that I first noticed on the May Meander proved to be the radiator rather than a hose union, so I limped home from Ardgay (I fitted a new radiator a week later and so far, so good after a further 2200 miles).



No that is not my coolant on the ground!

Barns Car Show – 6 June

For only the second time, a car show was organized (by the Historic Wheels Club, I believe) at the Barns caravan site near



Nairn. It was not open to the general public and was advertised as a Highland Classic Gathering. Seven Highland MGs

attended, and we were very pleased to recruit John Ross with his smart Midget 1500.

Day Run 8 June

There wasn't much interest in a 8 June run, so Ray, Sarah & I had a gentle bimble around the Black Isle in glorious weather with lunch at Cromarty.



Photo by Sarah

Day Run 31 July

This was an 8 MG run organized by Christine & Tim to Glenelg. Excellent weather, quiet roads and stunning scenery made this a highlight of the year. **This is Tim's write-up:**

'It is now four years since Christine and I in July 2017 last enticed some of our mostly North East coast members to join us in a foray over the Ratagan Pass again today to explore the less frequented and empty vastness of the Glenelg Peninsula.

So it was with great pleasure today that

Stuart and Margaret (MG3)
Peter and Jean (MGB Roadster)
Jim and Moira (MGB Roadster)
Dave and Dawn (MGBGT)
David and Elaine (MG Midget 1500)
Richard (MG Midget 1500)
Ian and Christine (MG TF)

made their journeys from the North East with the exception of Jim and Moira who live in Lochcarron to join Christine and myself in a spectacular area we know well.....



We met at Kintail Lodge Hotel at the western end of Glen Shiel and drove for lunch at the Glenelg Inn via the Ratagan Pass pausing near its high point to take photographs across to the Five Sisters of Kintail and then descending to Glenelg Village itself passing Bernera Barracks.

Photo by Tim



Photo by Tim



Photo by Ian



Photo by Richard



Photo by Tim



Photo by Tim

After a very good convivial lunch we all then drove south from Glenelg to the road end at Corran looking across to the wild Knoydart Peninsula before returning for those who wished to look at the two Brochs/Duns and also investigate the micro-brewery "Dun Brewing" which opened in 2018 just beneath Dun Trodden.



Photo by Richard

Chris and I then returned home to Skye via the last remaining, in-service swing-car ferry the Glenachulish crossing the narrows at Glenelg to Kylerhea, a crossing we've made more than a few times in various vehicles in our 31 years living on Skye.

It is always the members that make a good Club, whatever vehicle they do or don't drive, and it was quite a thrill for Chris and myself to see the enthralled faces of our friends, none of whom had been down the entire peninsula to Corran before after they had seen the splendid scenery on both sides of the Sound of Sleat and Loch Hourn, especially on a red letter weather day such as today.'

Day Run 20 August

Great day run on a route devised by David (H). Nine MGs including a first appearance by Julie & Jon McGhee in their TF.



We met at the excellent Coach House Cafe in Tomich for bacon rolls or scones (still warm from the oven)

Photo by Ian



Photo by Ian



Photo by Richard



then
drove on
a '**secret**'
gated
estate
road
deep into
the
middle of
nowhere.
Nowhere
was very
nice! OK,
so it was

Photo by Richard – will we get in?

Strathfarrar which was a first for most people and a bit of a gamble as there is a strict limit placed on the daily number of cars admitted.



Photo by Ian



We parked just below the Monar dam (the only UK double arch dam – think a smaller version of the

Photo by Richard Hoover dam). Another good day for a picnic lunch and some stunning scenery and the odd golden eagle.

Day Run 7 September

Given the success of the Strathfarrar run, we decided to use the back-up route (in case of no access) for the September run. This was as far up Strathconon as is permitted (only a few

miles to go to Lochcarron if only there were public access). Eleven cars met at the Highland Cafe and after a grey but dry start the day progressively brightened.



The 'modern' MGs Photo by Richard



A collection of 1970s MGs – photo by Richard



Parked for the picnic by the river.

Photo by Richard



Picnic time

Photo by Richard



The drive back
– ignore the
view, look at
that fresh
tarmac!

Photo by Richard

Gathering of the Clans, 26 September

The GotC at Doune, excellently organized by the Glasgow MGOC, was our last one-day event of the year with 5 Highland MGs present (Tony parked with the Octagon Club).



While strictly a
one-day event,
we had travelled
down the day
before to
somewhere close
by. Tim &
Christine made a
guest
appearance with
the 2 terriers.

Photo by Ian

The day started dry (unusually for the GotC) although rain set in as everyone was thinking of leaving. There were 108 MGs present, and it was great to catch-up with old friends and to make new acquaintances.



1937 VA
with a
later
Salmon
body.

Photo by Richard



Photo by Richard



Photo by Richard



Photo by Ian

Autumn Amble 4 – 7 October

Our 3 day/4 night event was based at the Buchan Braes Hotel, **formerly the Officers' Mess of RAF Buchan**, at Boddam. This was a 9-car event.



After a wet day before the start, the first day saw a glorious run to Haddo House for lunch and a tour exploring some lesser travelled roads.

Photo by Tim



Haddo House – photo by Richard. We had our own tour guide.

Needless to say, the next day started with the threat of rain after a windy night and we headed to the Bullers of Buchan and Slains Castle well wrapped-up.



Bullers
of
Buchan

Photo by Richard



Total contrast with the day before – photo by Richard



The gothic ruins of Slains Castle, inspiration for Bram Stoker – photo by Richard

As the rain set-in, thoughts of a long drive disappeared, and we headed-off in a deluge to the Peterhead Prison Museum. **Some comments from Tim: 'we headed back to lunch in the Reform Cafe and an informative visit to the Peterhead Prison Museum which also has a newly opened (2019) RNLI building housing the restored old Lifeboat which served Peterhead so well from 1939 for thirty years - where we (mostly) stayed dry witnessing what was regarded as Scotland's toughest prison and being told of the history within! Anyone remember the dreadful riots and prisoner violence towards the Prison Officers there in 1987 -the prisoners holding people as hostage when the then UK Prime Minister - Margaret Thatcher- sanctioned deployment of the SAS to regain and restore control of the Prison?'**

We finished the day with a clever pictictionary quiz set by Patsy (T).



Gill & Chris maintained their unbeaten record with a 100% correct score sheet **while the 'odd couple'** (Malcolm & Richard) tied with Tim & Christine for second place with one wrong answer each.

Concentrating hard – photo by Tim

Our last full day started dry, emboldening Ronnie to drop the hood (no one else did) as we headed northwards. The south end of Peterhead was in glorious sunshine, the north end was in a torrential down pour. This was a 3-destination day. Here **are some more comments from Tim: 'despite Richard's usual impeccable route planning / a route he had last driven getting to Rattray Head Lighthouse and its windswept dunes had deteriorated significantly in the thirty years since he had driven it (even back then in a 4x4.....) and so after yesterday's torrential rains our MG's and their derring-do drivers faced a challenge of almost 3 miles of flooded massive potholed muddy roads (yellow on an OS map) getting to and back from Rattray Head.**

Leading the group in our CGT meant sending my co-pilot and spouse (of 46 years married life together), donned in her wellies, to walk through the flooded areas to ensure we could **get through....**



Photo by
Christine

In fairness & despite their low ground-clearance, all cars, despite having muck aplenty and mess in every orifice, **didn't** let Abingdon (or Longbridge in the case of **Jeremy's** ZT 190) down. **Even Hughie's** 2014 BMW Z4 managed the challenge as one would expect of a Bavarian **"Ultimate** Driving

Machine" Sports Car! Honours even then.



The
'carpark', at
least it was
free! Photo by
Richard



Stunning beach though – photo by Richard

Destination 2 was the RSPB reserve at the Loch of Strathbeg where we were amazed to see egrets and konik ponies.

We then travelled on to Fraserburgh (destination 3) to have lunch and visit the excellent heritage museum before a stroll around the town and harbour before a return to Boddam in sunshine.



Kinnaird Head lighthouse – the first for the Northern Light Board built on to a 1500's castle. Photo by Richard



Some fabulous trawlers – these are classed as mid-Atlantic. Photo by Richard

For our last day, some of us drove to Fyvie Castle for yet another personal guided tour before lunch in Turrif.



Fyvie Castle.
Photo by Richard

This Autumn Amble was quite unusual and hopefully everyone found the programme to be varied and interesting. Many thanks to Stuart for sorting out a good deal at the hotel.

End of season lunch, 16 November

Having had to cancel a few lunches, it was great to be able to go ahead with one at the Kessock Inn for 24 members including new members Eric Wardlaw, George Carter (re-joining) and Ewan McFarlane. Hopefully, they together, with our other new members, David Somerville, Nick Rickets and David Carter will be able to join us for some runs in 2022.



Photo by Richard

The 2022 Programme

We have 3 pre-season Zoom gatherings scheduled (12 January, 9 February and 9 March). These start at 6:30pm and last around an hour, generally with a short quiz as well as a short film and a chance to catch-up. The invitations are emailed out the day before.

The first day run of the year should be Sunday, 24 April which will be the national Drive it Day. The route is normally devised by the Highland Classic Motor Club. This coincides with the last day of the Spring Saunter (22 – 24 April based in Lairg) so depending upon the route, the Saunterers may be able to join-in. While the Spring Saunter is fully subscribed, members are welcome to join-in on a daily basis, details of routes will be sent out nearer the time. We should then plan for a day run every month from May to September alternating between weekdays and weekend – updates will be sent by e-mail.

We would hope to be able to support shows at Tain (June) and Fortrose (August) if these go ahead and possibly at Barns too. Whether the GotC will go ahead in September will depend upon a club picking-up the lead (not practical for Highland).

Autumn Amble

The 2022 Autumn Amble is open for booking via Stuart (contact details on page 1) and will be 3 – 6 October (Monday to Thursday, 3 nights), based at the Highland Gate at Stirling. The B&B total cost is £212 per couple or £187 solo. Dinner is available at a 20% discount on the standard menu. 50% deposit (non-refundable) 28 days in advance, full payment 14 days in advance. See

<https://www.marstonsinns.co.uk/inns/highland-gate-hotel-stirling>

Spring Saunter 2023

We're planning something different for 2023 and the Saunter is open for booking (via Stuart). It will be 25 – 27 April (Tuesday – Thursday, 2 Nights) based at Garvault House. The DBB total cost is £300 per couple or £150 solo. We have 9 rooms available on a first come, first served basis. Garvault House is off-grid – see <https://garvaulthouse.uk/>

Best wishes for a happy & healthy 2022!

