

## What is a classic? Excerpts from "A Guide to Classic Cars"

Driving a classic car marks you out as an individual. Nobody drives a car that might be decades old because they have to—they do it simply because they want to. In a world of speed limits, traffic jams and petrol prices, rare indeed are the motorists who can claim to derive pleasure from their time behind the wheel, but classic car enthusiasts enjoy their motoring. That classic cars can deliver such pleasure—from the style, their character, and the nostalgia they engender—is a good enough argument for preserving and restoring them. Classic cars represent an important part of our history, and it is important that they be preserved.

Classics appeal to enthusiasts because, despite their age, they are still very capable cars and often have more character than moderns. There are almost as many ways to define 'classic car' as there are classic car enthusiasts to argue over the definition. Basically, cars become classics when people begin to buy them or keep them because they offer something a newer car cannot. Maybe because they are one of the high achievers, the technically outstanding designs which have withstood the ageing process. But equally they may be called a classic because they are reminders of their age, and throwbacks to departed eras. Outstanding cars become recognised as 'classic' before many other vehicles, but in the end every car becomes interesting simply because it becomes old. Cars which practically all enthusiasts would readily admit to the classic fold—the Jaguar E-type, for instance. While there might be older but which were everyday transport rather than objects of desire. Any major classic car event will see hordes of well-loved Hillman Minxes, Ford Populars and Austin Sevens lining up along side the Ferraris, Jaguars and Aston Martins. It is the character and period charm of these once everyday machines that make them classics, and those that deride their wheezy side-valve engines, flexible chassis frames and feeble performance are missing the point. One theory goes that your idea of a classic is governed by the cars that turned your head when you were a child. It doesn't matter much whether or not we can arrive at a definition everyone agrees with—you never will, so there is little point trying. What is important is that enthusiasts of any age and type of vehicle co-exist with every other sort of classic car enthusiast, recognising that the same basic needs and desires are present no matter what the machine in question might be.

Whatever the age or value of the classic that you currently own or long to buy, the hazards and hurdles you face in getting it on the road and keeping it there will be very similar. Buying the machine presents one set of problems, while maintaining it in the manner to which it is accustomed and fixing it when it inevitably goes wrong add another group of pitfalls and opportunities. *"Next Newsletter—Buying a Classic"*

## Quote of the month

The best car safety device is a rear-view mirror with a cop in it. ~Dudley Moore

## Technical Tip #10— Get your car ready for summer

Check wheel bearings, brake & clutch fluids—remember avoid overfilling master cylinders to prevent the dreaded leaking usually onto painted surfaces. Check wiper blades for wear. Ensure cooling system is in good condition and there are no leaks, make sure hoses are in good order, look over fanbelt for cracks and grease any grease points.

# HB British & European Car Club Inc. 'BRITS AND PIECES'

## A word from our Club Captain

Issue No. 11  
October 2009

There are several "away" trips coming up which some of us usually attend and would love other members to join us. These trips are a great way to get to know each other.

- **15th November:** MG Classic Car Racing at Manfield. Drive down in convoy, take your own picnic and enjoy the days racing together.
- **6th February 2010:** Wheels with Attitude in Dannevirke, drive down together and display our cars.
- **14th February 2010:** Trentham British Car Day (see details below).

If you would like any more information about any of the above, or if you would like to join us on any of the trips please contact a committee member so we may keep you up to date with the details.

Steven Tidswell

## Welcome to the following new members:

Maurice & Jan Clarkson  
Joined us from the Jaguar Club

We look forward to your company on our club runs.

Bruce & Nolene Waugh  
1954 Morris Minor Convertible

## Calendar of Events 2009

- **19th October**  
*Chicken Run—a Chapman / Collins event*
- **15th November**  
*MG Classic Cars—Manfield*
- **22nd November**  
*CHB Gymkhana & BBQ*
- **13th December**  
*Christmas Function at Kia Toa Clubrooms*

## 2010

- **6th February**  
*Wheel with Attitude, D'vrke*
- **14th February**  
*Trentham British Car Day (See below)*
- **14th March**  
*Wheels on Windsor*

## Trentham British Car Day 14th February 2010

Each year a contingent from the our Club travel to Upper Hutt to attend the Trentham British Car Day. **This event will be held in 2010 on the 14th February.** If you would like to join in accommodation is at Harcourt's Holiday Park, to book phone Keith or Kathy on (04) 5267400, and say you are with the club. The modern & comfortable cabins go fast and will be on a first come first served basis. Also available are 2 Motels & 6 Tourist Flats. The accommodation is a 10 min. drive to Trentham. We leave HB early on Saturday morning and John Versey is organising some great places to visit on the journey down to Wellington. This weekend is very sociable and a great chance to advertise our own Wheels on Windsor show. We would love you to join us. Please let us know once you have booked so we can keep you in contact with details. Phone Sue or Steven 8764523

## Thank you to our sponsors:

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## July Outing—Sunday 16th August 2009 - Tommos Trophy

We could hear the rain falling when we woke on Sunday morning but the call had gone out - RAIN, HAIL OR SHINE. 13 cars met at the old Robbie Burns building in Hastings and drove down to Waipawa in convoy another three cars met us there. We met at the Misty River Cafe where we had lovely hot coffee and a chat before Judy Thomsen gave us our Rally orders. We left at 3 minute intervals, headed south and turned right straight after the bridge. A lovely drive ensued through Onga Onga and out further towards the ranges. Any view that could have been seen was well hidden under the misty rain. We crossed the main road and did a tour of Takapau then turned off at the Orua Wharu Road past the Homestead then out on Abbotts Road and ended up for lunch at the Wanstead Hotel. The Hotel has been fully refurbished, and is very tastefully done.. A lovely place to visit next time you feel the need for a drive. Seton & Judy certainly put together a wonderful day which was not compromised by the weather at all - except for a certain Triumph S whose window disappeared down into the door leaving the driver open to the elements!! The Rally and social time was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. The Tommo's Trophy and prize was taken out this year by new members Peter & Christine Durham.



At the Wanstead Hotel

Tommo's Trophy Winners  
Peter & Chris Durham

## September Outing— Daimler & Lanchester Owners Club Outing

We met at the National Aquarium Car Park at 1pm before being given our run notes. A beautiful drive followed out past the airport then through Bay View and up and over the hills. The weather was stunning and the views amazing. Several stop points to throw the



dice, and answer some questions along the way. We all arrived at the Rose & Shamrock in Havelock North for a Nosh & Natter. Prizes were taken out by John & Avelyn Pate—Solar Torch, Chris & Chris Wheeler—Picnic Rug,



Jan & Maurice Clarkson—Mazda Kite (non-classic prize). An extremely well organised and thoroughly enjoyable run. Thanks to the organisers for such a great day.

Have you ever wondered what your committee members get up to at committee meetings? This photo was taken of your Club Captain arriving at the September meeting in his 60th birthday finery!!!

## Trip to Te Papa — 25, 26 & 27th September

It was decided by the Committee to organise a trip to Te Papa to see the Formula 1 display (*A word from our President, Issue 10*). Accordingly on Friday the 25th September Seton & Judy Thomsen, Sue & Steven Tidswell and David & Christine Pollard left Waipukurau and headed south. Stopping at Cobb & Co. in Masterton for dinner only to be told that they were fully booked but instead were offered The Kiddies Room as no-one was in there. After a magnificent feast off the “Seniors” menu in the Kiddies Room the trip resumed and up and over the Rimutakas and into the accommodation. Forgetting to go to bed for some time and amidst much laughter and a little tippie or two a fun filled night was enjoyed.

The following morning up bright and early and drive down (well in a roundabout way!) to the train station to catch the unit into the city. The train arrived several minutes later and off to Wellington—well Waterloo because the lines are closed for maintenance - a bus was waiting at Waterloo for the rest of the journey. A bit of shopping then off to Te Papa to meet John & Chris Versey, Robert Dodd, Ian Brown & Jenny Webb. The Formula 1 show was fantastic and the men especially had many happy discussions about the cars on display. The wall calendar of Formula 1 history made for very interesting reading.

The whole group then spent quite some time exploring some of the other wonderful displays in the Museum—what a fantastic facility with some amazing interactive and static displays. The machine that you play by placing your hands on the circles to bring in different instruments and make great music was a hit with Judy & Sue. The giant squid. The Golden Years of NZ—all of it, fantastic.

Some sore legs made the decision for everyone to head back to the accommodation—some by car the rest by bus & train (mind you the bus got missed at Wellington and a wait of half an hour ensued but only added to the fun). John & Chris Versey went shopping to purchase dinner for everyone to enjoy together when the train finally arrived into Upper Hutt. Another wonderful evening of eating, laughter, chat and fun was had by all.

Sunday morning saw the group head out after breakfast and with a stop at Gasoline Heaven in Carterton where Bob & Georgie took us through their wonderful display. We were invited into the inner sanctum of the “Board Room” and shown some amazing memorabilia which is not on general display. Bob is the Event co-ordinator of the Masterton Motorplex. Gasoline Heaven is a fantastic place to stop and spend some time, Bob & Georgie have a collection of Zephyrs, hot rods, a nostalgic dragster, street machines & classics.

Next stop was at the Middleton Model Railway & Cheesery in Eketahuna then a rather long and enjoyable lunch at The Black Stump in Pahiatua before heading for home.

This weekend was one out of the box as one traveller was heard to say.



David Pollard with Raikonen's McLaren



John Versey, Seton Thomsen &amp; Robert Dodd