



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Sunday 26 April 2015 is Drive It Day!

As the dust settles on the Classic Motor Show, traditionally the unofficial close to the historic vehicle 'season', clubs will be turning their thoughts to the coming year and will be scheduling events in their calendars... if they haven't already done so!

The time is therefore ripe to ensure you have the dates for the annual FBHVC Drive It Day in your events diary. This is the day where historic vehicles of all sorts are rescued from their winter hibernation, thoroughly checked and cleaned, and taken out on the road. It's a fun day and much enjoyed by the general public who have a real affection for these important parts of our motoring heritage.

There is however a serious purpose behind Drive It Day. The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, which devised and continues to promote the event, exists to protect historic vehicle owners' rights to use the public highway and Drive It Day is a tangible and thankfully peaceful demonstration of enthusiasts exercising that right.

It has been estimated that something like a quarter of a million historic vehicles take to the roads on Drive It Day and clubs traditionally hold meetings and 'scenic runs', very often as their season opener. Given the purpose of the event the more the merrier! This year the event reverts to its original format where FBHVC promotes the event nationally and clubs are free to select routes and venues to suit their particular requirements.

"Drive It Day seems to gain in popularity each year", says national co-ordinator, Ken Coad, "We get all types of vehicles, four, two and three wheelers, trucks, buses, tractors and even former military vehicles. The variety is endless and probably the only common factor is their age. To be classed as historic, a vehicle must be 30 years old or more."

ENDS

Editor's notes:

1. 'Drive it Day' and the Drive it Day logo are the copyright of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs Ltd. The Drive it Day logo is a registered trademark. Clubs who are members of FBHVC have a perpetual licence and are encouraged to use 'Drive It Day' and the logo in connection with the promotion of events organised by them and taking place on the appointed date each year. Museum members and trade supporters may also use the mark in support of events taking place at their premises on the appointed day. The logo may not be used by any other person or for any other use without the prior written permission of FBHVC.
2. Clubs wishing to use the Drive It Day logo in their publicity can download a copy at: <http://www.fbhvc.co.uk/members-pages/members-area/fbhvc-branding/> please note this is a password protected area reserved for members and you will need to register for access if you have not already done so.

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3. Drive It Day rally plates will again be available and details for obtaining these will be publicised nearer the date. It will be possible to obtain them direct through the website.
4. Every year Drive It Day is purposefully held on the Sunday nearest to 23 April. Why? Because it commemorates the 64 cars that left London on the first day of the Thousand Mile Trial on 23 April 1900. The Royal Automobile Club Thousand Mile Trial started in London and passed through Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, travelled through Scotland, then passed back through more English locations until they were back in London again. The tour lasted until 12 May and 46 out of the approximately 65 starting cars made it to the finish line.
5. The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs exists to maintain the freedom of its members to use historic vehicles on the UK's roads, hence its campaign message: 'Yesterday's Vehicles on Tomorrow's Roads'. The FBHVC has over 530 member clubs representing over 255,000 individual owners.