



Torbay Old Wheels Club



Torbay Old Wheels Club was born in the early months of 1992. A few friends interested in old cars, scooters and motorcycles met at the Old Smokey pub at Marldon in January where it was decided to form a club. This was followed by the inaugural meeting in February at the Seafeld Hotel. The first Chairman was the late Ian Hannaford, and Secretary Sue Roberts. Several of the people who were members in the club's infancy are still active in the life of the club today. The club held its first rally that year at Buckfastleigh, but unfortunately it was very muddy!

The club grew steadily and was invited by Torbay Carnival in the autumn of 1993 to take on the running of the Riviera Classic Car Show from the following year. Since 1994 the show has raised nearly £60,000 for local charities due to the hard work of its members, and of course the support of the visitors and the owners who display their wonderful vehicles. The show marked the centenary of Torbay Carnival in 2008 by displaying a genuine 1908 steam car in full working order. This proved to be a very popular attraction and we always try to find one or two extra special vehicles to tempt in the visitors.

As well as the Riviera Classic Car Show, TOWC has a busy calendar of events for its members. The club meets monthly on the last Thursday evening at the Blagdon Inn, between Paignton and Totnes. In the winter months there are monthly runs to blow away the cobwebs, whilst in the summer many members take their vehicles to other shows in the south west and sometimes beyond. Most years members arrange a short break "up country".

In 2019 the club enjoyed the accolade of being voted one the UK's Top Ten classic car clubs by readers of Practical Classics magazine.

Despite the recent pandemic, TOWC is still active and regularly gains new members. Although membership is now well over 200 the club remains very friendly and welcoming.

Anyone interested in joining can contact us through the website or Facebook page "Torbay Old Wheels Club". A membership application form can be downloaded from the website.