

Newsletter



Member of the Federation of
British Historic Vehicle Clubs

Well we can't complain about the weather even if it's thunder storms that turn you on.

So as you will see from the reports we have taken advantage of conditions and have been very active in the last two months.

What's more if you look at the "What's On" section there's plenty more to come.

So see you there.



An easy chair & a telly where's my lager?



What's Coming Up

Key:

- ⇒ Club event
- ◇ Club attendance as a group at a motoring or other event
- Everything else of interest. These items are shown for information only.

IN THIS ISSUE

Future Events
Reports

A Big Welcome to New Members

Martin Evans
George Duguid
Steve & Sue Edwards



Bacon sarnie anyone?

July

- ◇ 2 Bibury Hub Club Event website & Malcolm Cutler 01285712173
- ⇒ 15 Donnington Brewery Lunch Run Steve Harding 01666 860119
- ⇒ 18 Committee Meeting Geoff. Tebby 01453 883821
- ⇒ 27 Croquet & Cream Tea John Airey 01793 873026
- ◇ 29 Hunters Care Home Fete Malcolm Cutler 01285712173

AUGUST

- ◇ 4/5/6 South Cerney Steam Show Ken Hinton 01285 712522
- ◇ 5 Longfield Hospice Fete Rob Ambler
- ◇ 12 Swindon & Cricklade Railway Rob Ambler
- ⇒ 16 Aunt Sally Event Dave Chambers 01608658603
- ◇ 19/20 Fairford Steam Fair Malcolm Cutler 01285712173
- ◇ 28 Pershore Plum Fair Keith Handley 01285 658450
- ◇

September

- ◇ 2 Oakridge Village Show Mike Scott 01285 760315
- ⇒ 14 Lunch Run TBA
- ⇒ 29 Visit to Air Salvage Kemble Malcolm Cutler 01285712173

Watermoor Care Home Fête

On Saturday 10th. June we were invited along to the Watermoor Care Home to add to their display section of their annual fête. So along with two horses, two donkeys and a fire engine, six of us duly did our duty and lined up in front of the house. It was a very hot day so we soon carefully arranged our chairs under the shade of a large chestnut tree and proceeded to natter away the afternoon, only punctuated at intervals by burgers and ice creams. At 4 o'clock, as the fête ended the big black clouds rolled in and thunder and lightening echoed around. I made a quick dash for home but -too late - the torrential rain descended and my trip home was more by river than road.



FCCC Visit to Crofton Beam Engine, nr Malmesbury, 11th May '23

Directions to Crofton Beam Engines may be well signposted and Ralph gave us very clear instructions as to how to get there, but we all still seemed to come from different directions, although disappointingly no one came by narrow boat along the Kennet & Avon Canal! As you can see from the photos taken by Keith and on Flickr site, we had a wide range of cars present and the weather just about held off for our visit.

Our visit started with coffee and cakes provided by Chris and her colleagues, followed by a very interesting introductory talk and video by Ralph. Built over 200yrs ago to supply water to the highest point of the canal, Crofton's two beam engines date back to 1812 and 1846, with the Boulton & Watt engine being the oldest beam engine still in its original building and capable of doing its original job. Our visit was not on a 'steaming day' but this did enable us to have a much closer look at the engines and site, thanks to the guided tours by Ralph and his colleagues and without the crowds which attend a steaming day. The work and dedication by the small group of enthusiasts maintaining Crofton and its engines has to be admired and supported, a fact which was brought home by the future problem of sourcing the right type of coal. The coal fired boilers need a specific type of coal which, due to the recent ban on the sale of this type of coal in the UK, will not be available in the future and they are now having to experiment with other types, so far with varying degrees of success.

Following our visit we all retired to the Swan Inn at nearby Wilton (nearby as the 'crow flies' but a bit further by road!) for an excellent lunch, just in time as the weather broke with heavy rain and hailstones!

Many thanks to Ralph and Chris Morgan for organising our visit and I would urge any of you who have not been to Crofton to go along and support a very interesting part of our industrial heritage.
Malcolm Cutler - June 2023



June Lunch Run to Cogges Farm Witney by Dave

After leaving the Cotswold Motor Hub at 11-30 am we all enjoyed a most interesting route in glorious sunshine, also we had some very rapid crossings of main roads arriving at Cogges Manor Farm at lunchtime.

Here we were met by the very helpful staff who got us all parked neatly facing the side of the ancient Manor House, this is very much a working Farm with no sweeping driveway up to the front door, but a plain lawn area and a very productive kitchen garden to the side, which is all kept in order by volunteers.

We were all seated on straw bales in an open sided barn where the kitchen staff brought us our pre ordered lunches.

After lunch we were introduced to our guides, David who took the outside group around the farm buildings etc. & the two Fiona's who took us around the house.

Manor Farm was a very large concern in years gone by & was used to grow produce for the brewing industry & exported grain all around the country.

They employed many local people but of course today all farming is done by contractors on a huge scale.

There are many animals on the farm for visitors to enjoy & children to learn about, & of course the Downton Abbey connection Yew Tree Farm, the location of which is prized for it's freedom of modern trappings, ie not on an aircraft flight path etc. lucky in this area!

The Manor House itself was most interesting & dates back to the 13th century; it's had many changes over the years but maintains an overall picture of life without all our modern conveniences, the dairy & walk in larder being wonderfully cool on a very hot day.

This is a place where one could spend lots of time exploring & we certainly all enjoyed our visit, everyone involved from staff to volunteers were most helpful & welcoming,

Ps the ice creams were delicious.



Abingdon Air Show

About half a dozen of us were feeling withdrawal symptoms since we had not been to an air show since before Covid. So when the invitation to visit this one arrived we made our preparations.

Despite the poor organisation and the long queue to get in it was quite a good little show with lots of informative displays from all the armed forces and even one from the Homeguard.

There were air displays from helicopters, fighter planes and an aerobatic display but the display by the Hawker Hurricane with the Merlin engine stole the show for oldies like me.

