



Newsletter



Member of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs

Well what a year it has been weatherwise. Summer in the Spring, Winter rain in the Summer and now we are in for three days Summer in the Autumn—who knows we might get Summer in the Winter.

My sympathies are with the event organisers who have had hot sunshine one day followed by deep mud the next as both South Cerney and Fairford experienced .

Our photographer found this one old boy in his shelter munching on an ice cream—no wonder he’s is confused.



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.

October			
⇒	17 Committee Meeting	Geoff. Tebby	01453 883821
November			
⇒	16 Lunch Run	Ashley Holmes	01285 810524
December			
⇒	15 Christmas Lunch	Malcolm & Jill Cutler	01285 712173

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A Big Welcome to New member
Helen Read



Aunt Sally Run

On August 16th around 4.0 pm we met at Timothy’s in Fosseway Garden Centre where things looked a bit different as the garden centre is being refurbished. After coffee, cake and a chat we set off about 5.0 ish on a mystery tour around some Cotswold villages - some of us did more miles than was planned and at one point we met some coming the other way. After a quick turn around we all arrived at the Golden Ball at Lower Swell

Who would have thought hitting a dolly with a stick could be such fun and so difficult. Aunt Sally didn’t end up with too many bruises as the winner with a score of 4 was Brian Dickenson.

After the game we all sat down to an excellent meal and another chat. Many thanks to David and Carol Chambers for organizing the event and to the players that walked up and down fetching the sticks
Brian & Kath Dickenson

South Cerney Steam Show 4-6th August

Earlier in the year there had been rumours that the South Cerney Steam Show would not be taking place this year as the airfield was to be covered by Solar Panels. Fortunately the rumour was incorrect and the show went ahead in the same format as previous years. FCCC was well represented as usual and this year we had a larger stand, although a bit further away from the main arenas. It was also the first time that we had put up the club gazebo since before Covid and the gusting wind did not help, but with members help we managed it without floating away over Swindon!

Friday was a good day for getting around the show as there were less people and the weather was generally OK. Saturday was another matter with heavy rain for much of the day which severely reduced the number of visitors and classic cars, but the gazebo was still standing! Needless to say our stalwart couple from Exmouth, Dave & Mo Apperley, stuck it out and from what we hear had a good old time sheltering from the rain in the beer tent and with the Rock & Roll guys & gals!

The sun came out on Sunday and we had a very good club turnout, as well as other classics. Yes, it was a bit messy amongst the stalls but with lots of straw on the walkways, bacon butties and later on, ice creams, no one seemed to mind. Fortunately we had just packed the gazebo etc away and were in our cars when the heavens opened - just in time to join the queue to get out!

A great show, but maybe in need of a re-think as the layout etc is the same every year.
Malcolm Cutler



Swindon & Cricklade Railway Weekend 12th August

Paul Turner and his companion Rufus, his dog, have been pushing us to visit the railway for some time. Paul helps there and is one of their key 'carriage' repair men. Last year we booked in to support their 'open weekend' but due to the extremely hot weather only one member made it there! For this year's event the weather was cooler and on the Saturday the club went along (9 cars), the rain kept away until mid afternoon - I understand that the Sunday was a different matter with much more rain.

The Railway certainly worked hard, not only putting on a wide range of activities, stalls etc but also attracting a range of other interesting vehicles, including a Stanley Steamer, and traction engines both large and small - many of which had been at the South Cerney Steam show the Sunday before and would be at the Fairford Steam Show the following weekend. Paul and his colleagues gave us all a good tour of the 'wagon works' and if you think rebuilding a classic car is complex, then think again when you look at the work needed to replace the woodwork, upholstery and fitting of a 100+ year old railway carriage - especially if it been used as someone's home for many years! Whilst the 'Home Guard' demonstrated their skills using blank ammunition we boarded the train (provided free for the day) for a run up the line. Coming back the heavens opened so we did not hurry to get off - we were sitting in the luxury of 1st Class, which of course befitted members of the FCCC!

Thanks to Paul and also to Rob Ambler for organising the event.
Malcolm Cutler



Fairford Steam Show 19/20th August

Due to the Foot & Mouth crisis, heavy rains and bankruptcy the Fairford Steam Show has not been held for the past 10yrs. For many years it was an annual fixture in the national Steam Rally circuit and previously being held in the park at the top of Fairford High St, it was a major local event and one which the FCCC has regularly supported. It was therefore great news that a new committee had found a suitable site just outside Fairford and worked hard to get the event started again. FCCC were asked to help with the Classic Car section and also could choose our own spot, together with the Fairford Mens Shed.

The 28acre site just outside Fairford is an ideal venue, with good drainage (in most places!). The organisers attracted around 15 large traction engines, a similar number of small engines, commercial and military vehicles, tractors, motorbikes etc. There were around 100 classics lined up opposite the parade ring and over the two days FCCC had around 25 cars on the stand and a lot of interested visitors. The organisers also aimed to promote Fairford and district charities, businesses, clubs etc and the general feedback was that they succeeded in doing so. People commented that it was a mini South Cerney show but with much more more charm and character.

Unfortunately the weather that weekend was somewhat variable with large crowds dodging the showers on the Saturday, but unfortunately heavy rain late on in the day resulted in the public car park being inaccessible on the Sunday. This meant that cars had to be parked around the actual site and in the parade ring on Sunday, so no demonstrations could be made - on the Saturday the sight of around 12 steam engines in a row was very impressive. We packed up the FCCC and Mens Shed stands on the Sunday night and put everything into the FCCC gazebo to be collected on Monday morning. All went well in the morning, packing it onto Ken Hinton's van and trailer, until we went to get out and promptly got stuck in the mud! Hitching up Malcolm's Volvo helped to get it close to the gate but after the tow rope parted we had to resort to help from a passing JCB. Both vehicles were covered in mud and I think we blocked the drains washing them down the next day - and Ken threw his shoes away!

If the organisers can put on the show from scratch and cope with the weather that was thrown at them (plus the ladies World Cup final on the Sunday), then they deserve to succeed in the future - it has just been announced that the show will be back in 2024 over the 17/18th Aug weekend. Lets hope for better weather!

Malcolm Cutler



September 14th the monthly Car Club lunch run.

Despite a disastrous start with the Evenlode first of all not sending out a menu then, sending out the wrong menu – twice, things eventually went well and everyone was fed and watered accordingly. The food was actually very good.

Eleven cars set out from Hilliers Garden Centre on the outskirts of Lechlade for a 28 mile run around the Cotswolds. There were two fords on the run and some members, I feel, were nervous about the depth of them and decided to bypass accordingly. Their fears were unfounded however as there was barely 2 inches of water to go through. Eventually we all made it to the Evenlode on the A40 just outside Eynsham where we were all fed and watered. However two teams chose their own detours and found fields of wild flowers and a pack of hounds on exercise—at least that's what they told us !! Thanks to Gary and Rose for this event.



Lunch Venue

Some did it and others didn't—you know who you were !!

Lunch

Photographs from two other events we went to



Pershire Plum Fair

- do plums make you anaemic ?



Oakridge Village Show

I think Mike has been let out on bail !

