

Newsletter



Member of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs

Well here we are again

The year is up and running and already we have several successful events to report - but we need a couple more volunteers to organise some more Lunch Runs so please step forward to help.

Alongside is a very unusual photograph as our usual photographer, Keith, appears in it - enjoying his pizza at La Strada Restaurant at the finish of the last lunch run.



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

Dennis & Sally Ward
Ian Swallow



John Arkell—the brewery's founder

March

- ⇒ 14th. Lunch Run David Fletcher dave@thefletcher.net
- ⇒ 30th. Skittles evening Malcolm Cutler 01285 712173

April

- ⇒ 18th. Committee Meeting Geoff. Tebby 01453 883821
- ⇒ 23rd. St. George's Day Run Ken Hinton kenhinton383@gmail.com
- 30th Wheelnuts car show at St. Roses' Stroud website

May

- ⇒ 9/11th. Lunch Run TBA
- ◇ 20th Abingdon Air Show Malcolm Cutler 01285 712173

June

- ⇒ 13/15th. Lunch Run TBA

July

- ◇ 1/2nd. Bibury Transport Hub Club Event Malcolm 01285 712173
- 9th. Attwell Wilson Car Show website
- ⇒ 13th. Donnington Brewery & Lunch Run Steve Harding
- ⇒ 27th. Croquet & Cream Tea John Airey



Some photos from the brewery visit

FCCC February Lunch Run - 16 Feb

For 38yrs FCCC has been organising runs around the Cotswolds (and beyond) and you would therefore expect us to have covered every road and supped in every hostelry, in the area. Our Feb run proved that this is certainly not the case, starting with coffee and cakes at the Dragonfly Cafe near Oaksey, driving along North Wilts lanes, new to many of us, and ending up at the La Strada, Italian restaurant nr Broad Hinton.

The Dragonfly Cafe is situated on a large lake and is part of the Lower Moor Farm Nature Reserve. Unfortunately the weather was overcast so we did not see it at its best, but on a sunny day it must be a very beautiful and relaxing spot. We certainly filled the cafe and with good coffee, cakes to die for and friendly service, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Bunny and Geoff had put together a very interesting run through N Wilts with a wide variety of roads, including some Bunny 'green lanes'! At least we did not have any floods to go through this time, but as a numbers of farmers are now spring ploughing/cultivating, the state of the car meant the pressure washer came out at the weekend. A nice touch was the visit to Hackpen Hill before lunch and a view of the White Horse.

The La Strada Italian restaurant is on the B4361 between Swindon and Avebury. It used to be a pub (can't remember the name) but which was boarded up for a number of years. It has now been totally renovated and everyone seemed to be impressed with the food, a reasonably priced lunch menu and friendly service. We will come again!

Once again many thanks to Bunny and Geoff for organising the venues and route.

Malcolm Cutler Feb 2023

Visit to Arkells Brewery, Swindon - 15th Feb

Unbeknown to most of us the visit to Arkell's brewery in Swindon, organised by Rob Ambler, coincided with the brewer's 180yr anniversary and the launch, on the day we visited, of their celebration ale named Tradition. We and other people on the tour, were some of the first to sample Tradition and as you could drink as much as you want within the £10 visit fee, we had ample opportunity to try it out - verdict from me, 'well if your asking I'll have another please'!

The tour started with an enthusiastic history lesson by Alex Arkell who, in 2012, took over as head brewer and is quite rightly very proud of the family business since being started 180yrs ago by farmer John Arkell. This was initially to keep his workers 'hydrated' and happy, but soon grew into a business of its own - farming never stays still! One of his early purchases was a furnace to feed the steam engine which he bought from a certain Isambard Brunel Swindon railway works!

Following Alex's talk some of our party went on the first tour whilst others carried on sampling their ales and joined Alex Arkell on the second tour. By his own admission Alex is a 'brewing nerd' but for those of us on his tour this was definitely a plus point as we learnt a lot not only about brewing, but about the method use by Arkell. They are founding members of a club of only 10 remaining steam breweries in the UK and whilst it is now mainly electrically driven much of the equipment is still belt driven. They do also use the original steam engine occasionally.

The only down side to having Alex lead our tour, or maybe it was all the questions we kept asking, was that we were late for the food, most of which had already been devoured by those who came before! It was good to come back to our local craft brewer, learn so much more about the process and their history, and of course sample their beers! A great visit and thanks again to Rob for organising it.

Photographs of the Arkell's Brewery visit are on page 1

FCCC After Christmas “Bunny” Lunch Run

Contrary to the miserable state of the World, a group ofjolly FCCC members met for the annual end of year “ Bunny Lunch Run “, starting from The Greyhound at Siddington , masterminds behind the ‘welcome ‘morning coffee , route , and lunch menu were Ken and Jackie Hinton.

It was great to see new members Matt and Jessica in their immaculate Z4 and Steve Taylor in what was one of the first new Morgan Super 3.s to leave the factory , maybe not the best weather for an open top car along flooded lanes but both car and driver coped well on what was their first trip since leaving the “ production line “.

It was so nice to see 3 young navigators namely Jessica , Emily, and Harry joining us ‘old uns’ and I hope they enjoyed themselves. I don’t know if it’s a first for FCCC but it is now becoming a regular sight to have 3 generations of the same family taking part in the lunch runs namely Steve , Harry ,and Steve in the Morgan’s. I was glad Harry’s had a water proof if not wind proof hood, about I did hear the question asked of Steve “ what do you do when it rains “ he answered “ you get wet”. Mmmm! I’m a bit old for that but an exciting car nonetheless.

We were made very welcome for both morning coffee and later lunch at The Greyhound, it’s unusual to start and finish at the same venue but it was an excellent idea, thanks again go to Ken and Jackie.

I’m sure everyone taking part had a super time , it certainly appears so from Keith’s photos on our website , thank you Keith.

Here’s to our next run, we deserve some better weather.

Steve Harding



Photos from the February Lunch Run



Some well established members

Some new members

All tucking-in to il pasto