

Newsletter



Member of the Federation of
British Historic Vehicle Clubs

Well here we are again -
off to a new season
With plenty of events promised
Already we have had some sunny
days and my daffodils and
primroses are out.
Hope to see you all
A small personal note—thank you
to all of you who sent me birthday
greetings



A big thank you Rob & Wendy for my
magnificent cake



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.

March			
⇒	20	Lunch Run	Dave Fletcher 01793 239007
April			
⇒	10	Committee meeting	Geoff. Tebby 01453 883821
•	21	Coleford Carnival of Transport	website
⇒	23	St. George's Day Run	Gary Haynes 07908 183770
•	27	Drive it Day	
May			
For non- club events see the Events list already sent out			
⇒	TBA	Lunch Run and AGM	Malcolm Cutler 01285 712173

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Future events
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A big welcome to new members
Tim and Olivia Jeans
David and Margaret Bush

FCCC Christmas Lunch
Once again we were welcomed in the Highwayman Inn for an excellent Christmas Lunch. Lots of seasonal chat and
A speech from our Chairman rounded off another excellent event.
Thanks to Jill and Malcolm for organising



FCCC VISIT TO THE BUGATTI TRUST, PRESCOTT - 2nd DEC '24

It always amazes me that if you want to find out anything about one of the most famous names in motor sport i.e. Bugatti, the first port of call is not in France but in a village in the Cotswolds. Immediately following the 2nd WW, many of the Bugatti factory's records and drawings were brought over to the UK and eventually housed in the purpose built Bugatti Trust building at the Prescott hillclimb. Over the years the Trust has put together an amazing collection of artefacts, drawings and examples of the Bugatti family's work, whether it be cars, sculptures or furniture.

The FCCC has visited the Trust a couple of times in the past, but not for many years, so a visit to view their latest displays was well overdue. We were met by their Curator, Angela Hucke, and one of their long term Trustees, Charles Trevelyan, a Bugatti owner himself. Angela (who has just been given the RAC Personal Endeavour award for her work at the Trust) and Charles, gave us a 'potted' history of the Bugatti family, how the Trust came into being and the mammoth task of digitising all their Bugatti records, including production drawings of the cars! Whilst the Trust's activities are centred on 'all things' Bugatti they have expanded into other areas including actively supporting the educational STEM outreach programme working with schools, colleges and universities throughout the UK to inspire the next generation of engineers and designers. Initiatives supported include FS Formula Student, and F1 in Schools!

Having been split into two groups we were then taken around the Trust's collection of Ettore Bugatti's cars and engineering masterpieces, Rembrandt Bugatti's sculptures (famous for his animal sculptures) and Carlo Bugatti's furniture. Whilst best known for his beautifully designed and engineered automobiles, Bugatti was also involved in advanced aeronautical designs and a record breaking Autorail car. Amongst the many facts we learnt were that almost all components were manufactured in the factory, including such items as one piece nuts and washers (superior to separate nuts and washers) and that if you wanted to buy a new 8 cylinder crankshaft today, it would cost @ £45,000 - manufactured in Northleach!

The Trust is open to anyone and their opening times are on their website - bugatti-trust.co.uk or if you are at one of the regular Prescott Hill climbs call in and you may even get a coffee.

Many thanks to all who organised the visit and took us around.

Malcolm Cutler



After Christmas “Bunny” Run

It’s become a Club tradition, started by Bunny, to shake off Christmas celebrations by a drive out and lunch, a few days after Christmas day.

Ken was impressed with Oaksey Golf Club café so we gathered there for coffee and to swap tales of our Christmas experiences.

Another tradition for me is for my granddaughter Emily to navigate for me. So having picked up Emily and her partner, we popped into Malmesbury to pick up Bunny.

We set off from the golf club through Oaksey village—on through Culkerton, Cherington and Sapperton, up Daneway bank, making good progress, until at Miserden we came up behind a tractor and trailer. After several miles at a sedate pace, he pulled over and we made on through some narrow lanes to the Butchers’ Arms at Sheepscombe.

Due to limited parking at the pub Ken had arranged for us to park in the village hall car park and climb the hill (see photo of Denise doing just that) to the pub. He had kindly arranged for those of us with limited mobility to park at the pub itself. A very warm welcome and an excellent meal rounded off the event and thanks to Ken and Jackie for organising it all.



February Club Lunch Run

Our meeting venue was the Abbey farm Cirencester, where we had not visited for a number of years. To those of us who had visited before, we were impressed by the extension to the café and farm shop.

After the usual coffee and snacks we set off through Ampney Crucis, along Akeman Street, up Sheephouse lane and, if that was not narrow enough, we turned right along the picturesque Welsh Way to Barnsley where we turned left up to Fosse Cross. Then over the disused Andover to Andoversford railway line at the site of Fosse Cross station (now the re-cycling site). On through Calmesden, down to Perrott's Brook and after Woodmancote and some more picturesque scenery, we pulled into the Colesbourne Arms.

An interesting menu with some different dishes to the usual pub fare and a pleasant dining room.

When we had satisfied our inner selves Malcolm thanked Rob and Wendy Ambler for a very enjoyable event and then much to my surprise I was presented with a card, a bottle of champers and an amazing cake topped with a picture of my TR4A in icing. (see page 1). Many thanks to all of you and to Rob and Wendy for the cake on behalf of the club.
Geoff.





Defender to the end

MY Dad was not a religious person, but I recently heard someone describe the love of Defenders as a kind of religion – so maybe he was!

He absolutely loved everything about these vehicles: the smells, sounds, rattles, and especially the waves owners offer as they pass one another on the road.

He loved reading Land Rover Monthly and we spent many hours discussing the problem page in the Tech section, and different Land Rover faults.

With the onset of Alzheimer's, he was no longer able to drive his prized

possession, his 110 XS Utility, but he loved cleaning it and being taken out for rides, where he seemed to be able to remember the purpose of each button and lever – he even remembered which roads to take. These rides seemed to help him return to the person he'd once been.

When he passed away, our immediate thought was that he needed a fitting send-off – and nothing would be more fitting than a Defender hearse. Our funeral director located one straight away and friends and family arranged to follow on in a convoy of Defenders. We wore

Defender ties and the order of service showed Dad sitting proudly in his 110 XS Utility.

Dad had become more and more difficult as his Alzheimer's progressed and he'd always tell us what we should have done – from fixing a fence, to mowing the lawn. But we're sure he'd have found that his send-off just perfect – in his beloved Defenders, right to the end.
Simon Williams

MARTIN REPLIES: Sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad. You organised a fitting tribute, Simon, one I'm sure he'd wholeheartedly approve of.

An article by Simon Williams about his father
Copied as a photo so quality not up to usual standard