



Member of the Federation of
British Historic Vehicle Clubs

Newsletter



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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.contact

If you have a question, call

December		
⇒	13 Christmas Lunch Crown of Crucis	Malcolm 01285 712 173
⇒	27 After Christmas Blues Run	Bunny 01666 577 275
January		
⇒	15 FCCC Committee Meeting	Geoff. Tebby 01453 88 38 21
Very Advanced Notice		
⇒	9 July Croquet and Cream Tea 2020	

Other event dates appear in our "What's On" section on our website

October Lunch Run and Visit to Watsonian Sidecars – 23rd Oct.

Planning any outdoor event at this time of year is always very weather dependent. Whilst there is some satisfaction in winning over floods, ice or snow, there are times in the Cotswolds when you pray for the sun to shine. The October run was planned to run through some of the most beautiful, but little known, parts of the Cotswolds and being the beginning of autumn, the trees were just starting to turn. Once again the weather gods smiled on FCCC and from the start at Burford Garden Centre, through valleys, woods and open farmland along the Glos Oxon border, to the lunch stop at the Great Western pub in Blockley, our 27 members were treated to great weather and wonderful views. Phew!

After a very good lunch with fantastic service from an overworked lady serving, the majority of us motored onto the nearby Northwick Business Centre, which is actually a very interesting old wartime American Hospital and later a Polish refugee camp, to visit Watsonian Squire sidecars. Watsonian have been building motorcycle sidecars (chairs) since 1912, both for road and racing and are also agents for Royal Enfield motorcycles from India (which form an ideal 'partner' to their sidecars). A number of our members have in the past run Watsonian sidecars and some of you will remember from the talk given by Stan Dibben, that he won the world Championship riding on a Watsonian 'chair' (in fact in the workshop was a Royal Enfield and Watsonian combination which has recently been built for Stan and his son Mark). Bill Little also took the opportunity to test ride one of the new twin cylinder RE 650 Interceptor's.

An added bonus to the visit, especially for the ladies, was that Watsonian has now diversified into building their own small, bespoke, caravan. The body is moulded by a company in Cheltenham and Watsonian build the chassis and kit it out to the customer's choice. The end result is of a high quality and very attractive – it certainly caused a number of members to hide their credit cards!

Northwick Business Centre also houses a number of other classic car and motorbike companies (it's particularly worth checking out Unit 56) and we were lucky to be taken around 'Jaguar John's' collection of, yes you guessed, Jaguars next to Watsonian, including a couple of light weight E types, XK120s and 150s and a very nice Mk2 (plus an AC Cobra).

All in all a good day was had by all who came.



Graham chatting to the girls - as usual

Memories of Graham Young

Last month saw the death of Graham Young, one of our club's staunchest supporters almost from its beginning and one of its greatest characters. Graham was a man of many parts: as a lawyer (Senior partner of Townsend Solicitors in Swindon and Swindon radio's legal eagle), charity supporter (especially Save the Children and Poppy appeal), collector (Edward VIII memorabilia, owls, books – in fact most things!), classic car enthusiast, family man and above all someone who you could go to for sound advice and at the same time have a good laugh!

I first met Graham soon after he had taken his pre-war Morris 8 on a charity run to Paris and back on behalf, I think, of the Save the Children fund. Not probably the most suitable car and definitely Graham, on his own admission, was not very mechanically minded! The Morris was then sold and Graham bought Jim Loveday's MGB V8 - quite a difference, before owning a very nice Riley Elf, which was eventually bought by the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum, which they then auctioned to raise money for the museum. Graham would be one of the first people to enter for club events, and with his meticulous time keeping, always the first to be there. I know that many members have very fond memories of the times when Graham made us 'die with laughter' and I could certainly fill a few pages with anecdotes, but here are a few some of you will remember:

- The time when the organiser of the classic cars at the Fairford Steam Rally demanded we show paperwork including insurance (in a very aggressive manner) and Graham walked up and calmly asked if there was a problem and he was the club's lawyer – she quickly backed off.
- Our attempts at theatricals at the FCCC Christmas dinners when Graham entered fully into parts including in 'I look down at him, and I look up at him' and a version of Widecombe Fair.
- The unforgettable time in a Normandy bunker, when following a 'self-generated' explosion, Graham uttered the immortal words in a Churchillian voice, 'the battle for Europe has begun' and those present, of all nationalities, fell about laughing.
- And on the same holiday when in Honfleur, gnome like in his shorts and cap, he stood on a bollard to take photos of a wedding at the cathedral, only afterwards to realise that the official wedding photographer was taking photos of the bride and groom with him in the background – we pitied the couple when they came to see their photos of their special day!

In 2002, Graham was diagnosed with throat cancer, but made an amazing recovery after a very serious operation and continued to live life to the full, until having to move into a home because of advancing dementia. On the club's 30th anniversary we started with coffee at the Hyperion House Nursing home (where the club held its first meeting when it was a hotel), where Graham was a resident and where we reminisced about old times. I last saw him just after we had returned from this year's visit to Normandy, looked at the photos and where he still remembered our last visit there in 2002 – and he was still proudly wearing his jersey with the FCCC club logo.

Our belated condolences go to his wife Pam, his children and grandchildren, all of whom he was devoted to and who will miss him greatly.

Malcolm Cutler