

# Newsletter



Member of the Federation of  
British Historic Vehicle Clubs

Ice on the windscreen, gritters out on the roads and frozen bird baths, so it does not take too much effort to deduce that winter is approaching fast.

Time to check the anti-freeze and make sure you have de-icer handy and dare I mention it, time to start making your Christmas present list ! Perhaps a nice Austin- Healey in your stocking - well worth a try !



## 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.

If you have a question, call Bunny Lees-Smith, Event Coordinator, 01666 577 275

	<b>November</b>	
⇒	21 FCCC Lunch Run	contact Barry 01285 851 821
	<b>December</b>	
⇒	14 FCCC Christmas Lunch	contact Malcolm 01285 712173 <i>(please reserve your place NOW if you have not already done so)</i>
⇒	28 FCCC After Christmas Blues Run	<i>details out very soon</i>
	<u><b>Advance Notice 2019</b></u>	
	<b>January</b>	
	Re-arranged Stan Dibben Talk	
	<b>March</b>	
	27th. Skittles Evening	details nearer the time
	<b>April</b>	
	Bicester Heritage Scramble	
	<b>FCCC AGM</b>	

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## Fairford Classic Car Club at the Castle Combe Autumn Classic race day 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018

This is the seventh time the Fairford Club have attended this event and it could have been an absolute washout. Almost continuous rain for 24 hours before and throughout the event. But not for the FCCC, we had been allocated a stand for 24 cars and true to the club spirit all the room was taken. OK there were a few modern cars that had been exchanged for the less weather protected models which had been booked. The members really needed boots to cope with water flowing through the tents which was nearly ankle deep in places. The track was flooded during qualification but none the less the racing started on time although it was declared a wet race without a dry line.

This meeting supports a charity known as 'Hope for tomorrow' this is a national organisation dedicated to bringing cancer care closer to patients' homes via its Mobile Cancer Care Unit (MCCU) Project. Their ongoing mission is to effectively reduce the long distances of travel and waiting times for treatment that patients often endure, and also help them to avoid the stresses and strains of busy Oncology Centres.

Racing was primarily for classes of car prevalent before 1980 so there was a good showing of Jaguars e types, and the classic saloons, an Intermarque race by Fiscar, CCRC historic Touring car race, Healey International and the Gt & Sports car cup. We were treated to some very skilled driving in difficult wet conditions with fortunately few accidents. It occurred that the meeting also celebrated the success of the Gt 40 at Le Mans with a circuit demonstration of several actual cars (still in my view the best looking car in the world) and a Porsche 917K

Our members Angela and Peter Suckling organised food and drink in their usual spectacular manner. Paddling around in a cold shower they produced the most fantastic meal for members. Our thanks to them for all the hard work they did.

Bunny



## Fairford CCC visit to the Concorde Museum

I think that most of us (24 members and friends), who had booked to go to Bristol at Aerospace last month, thought that they were primarily going to view the last Concorde built and flown, *Concorde Alpha Foxtrot*. However, we soon found out that this brand new facility takes you from the beginnings of the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company in 1910, when the intrepid pioneer aviators first took to the skies in their magnificent flying machines, to the remarkable men and women who played their part in two world wars, through to those who dreamed of supersonic travel and then created the iconic Concorde to turn that dream into reality. We were taken around by a young tour guide who helped bring the exhibits alive (well almost) which not only charted the company's history in aviation, through to missile development and space exploration but also the company's beginning with tram development, Bristol cars and even their production after WW2 of pre-fab houses! The buildings housing the exhibition are also very special as they have retained the original wooden 'trellis' design roof trusses. The tour took around 1 1/2hrs before we even got to the Concorde hall! Concorde Alpha Foxtrot has undergone a thorough rehab since it used to be stored outside and just sitting looking at it and walking under those curvaceous wings, makes you realise how power and beauty can be combined. Inside it you can appreciate how small it is, certainly I cannot stand up straight in it, but also how cramped the cockpit is and how did the flight engineer manage to read all those dials and operate the mass of switchgear! However, probably the most spectacular display are the three videos projected onto the fuselage, one of which strips back the airframe, bit by bit so that you can see how the plane was constructed - very impressive. If you have not already been to see the Bristol exhibition and Concorde I would strongly advise you to do so. There is also a very good cafe/restaurant and shop. A number of our members said it was one of the best visits the club has arranged and one of the best aeronautical exhibitions in the country. Thanks to Bunny for organising the visit and Jill to managing it.

Malcolm Cutler