

FAIRFORD CLASSIC CAR CLUB POST CHRISTMAS RUN 30 DECEMBER 2011



For the second year running the Post Xmas run attracted a very good entry leaving only one space free for late comers. As usual on winter events we did have some late withdrawals but twenty eight cars assembled ready to set out from the Chedworth Farm shop for the 58 mile route. We welcomed this year a nice contingent of Austin Healeys from the Healey Club South West and this added much colour to the event.

Rosanne was ready with her staff to deal with a long queue for cakes and coffee but in due time everything was clear before the first car was due to leave. This year we presented crews with new challenges and a better set of route instructions. However, the massive paperwork was soon dealt with and cars were itching to leave.



The first part was a fairly straightforward 14 mile section to find Colin and Janet Biles marshalling at Birdlip. During this part there were 3 photo shots to identify each of some outstanding feature seen from the route. Although the weather was rather miserable the view across to the Malverns was possible.



82 11.7 0.3
 The next section took participants through Cranham and Painswick Beacon to meet up with Andrew and Sarah Ives marshalling at Shortwood. Almost all of this was in wooded country until the control was reached. Some of the route finding was 'interesting' with hidden gates and entrances but everybody managed eventually to arrive, some however having put in extra mileage. Geoff Tebby and Margaret had really got the bit between their teeth and beat the marshals to the control here.

83 12.1 0.4
 Shortwood stands on very high land above the Severn valley and only a small distance down the road the route passes near to Haresfield Beacon. The view from there is quite dramatic although only a few folk ventured out of the car to see it. Perhaps the slight rain put them off but they are forgiven, because the next thing was a steep hill down, which needed concentration.

84 13.5 1.8
 A short run took cars almost to the A38 then south through Stonehouse where most people missed the photo of the Stone built house in the centre of the town. From here the cars visited Kings Stanley and Selsey before dropping down to North Woodchester by the old piano factory.

85 14.0 6.1
 This 16.5 mile section ended at Cherington Lake where Bunny and Beryl Lees-Smith marshalled this point and where fortunately it stopped raining. However we caused a little local chaos due to the narrow road and cars (2) coming the other way including one of our own!!!



From here it was an easy run to the finish at the Crown, Cerney Wick for a very good value lunch, followed by the prize giving.



As it turned out this was closely fought with 3 clean sheets and the competition had to be decided by the tie breakers – estimates of height ascended and descended – nearest correct mileage covered. Richard and Rachael Cooper took first place and the bottle of Champagne with second David Martin and Liz with another bottle. Congratulations to them both and to all the other crews for completing the course with no one lost. A fitting end to a good motoring year.

