



RESTORER

EDITOR: KEN AUSTIN 01473 747007

EDITORIAL

Members watching the local TV news on Thursday 26th March will have been shocked on seeing the fire damage which destroyed the house and farm buildings where Bob and Graham Adams live at Feering. Tragically all three of their ponies were lost in the fire and the trap and cart also look like they were involved to some degree. When gas cylinders were discovered by the Fire Service this resulted in evacuation of the area and closure of the adjacent main railway line. Bob and Graham must be devastated, particularly by the loss of the ponies, not to mention their home and possessions. They will be familiar to many people who attend our Aldham Rally, where they regularly had a wheelwrights display and paraded their ponies and traps in the ring. I am sure that everyone feels for them and hopes that they can overcome this tragedy. The proceeds of the April clubnight raffle have been donated to them as a token of our support and concern.

I heard on the local radio in early April that *Sirapite*, the Aveling rail loco under restoration at Leiston Long Shop had just passed it's hydraulic boiler test and it is hoped to be steaming by Autumn. There is an interesting two page article about this engine on their web site longshop.care4free.net

You will see under Future Events that we have had to postpone our July visit to the Argent's farm at Waldingfield, which we hope to re-arrange in the future. The replacement will be a return visit to the always popular Weavers Stationary & Steam collection at West Mersea.

With our Rally fast approaching, an anxious eye is being kept on weather forecasts. A good soaking well in advance would have been welcome, but we obviously need it dry for the occasion and to cut the hay. The longer it holds off, the greater is the likelihood of a heavy downpour when it does come. We can but hope. I shall not be at Aldham myself this year, missing it for the first time in thirty years. A retirement holiday was booked a year ago as it sells out straight away, always coming in April or May so was confidently booked before the date was announced - June - straddling Aldham weekend! My involvement is largely beforehand, so newsletter and the rally programme printing were advanced by a day or two to get finished in time, but the Ring Co-ordinator job took the hit. This year, Bob Pirie has agreed to take this on for me - thanks Bob.

CLUB WEB SITE www.neetec.co.uk

Terri Honeywood has been busy since taking this on as our now official site and has updated it to include application forms for Aldham Rally Exhibitors & Stallholders and Club Membership along with the diary and also links to other related sites. If you have any photo's of the rally or club events that you would like to be considered for use in the photo gallery, Terri would be pleased to here from you.

WATCHING THE STEAM TRAINS. *Steam trains passing through our area.*

Britannia class 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* had two recent runs through our area. Firstly from Liverpool St via Colchester to Norwich and back on Thursday 23rd April. Then on it's first run over the East Suffolk line on Saturday 16th May when it hauled *The Easterling*, from Norwich, via Lowestoft, to Liverpool Street, returning via Stowmarket. After the second trip it stayed in Norwich until the next weekend for use on another special from Norwich (via Ely) to Hampshire in order to get it to it's next job in the South-West.

Two more steam rail tours are planned to pass our way. On 22nd August 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* is doing a reverse tour of the recent *Easterling*, from Liverpool St to Norwich via Lowestoft, returning via Stowmarket. A private charter from Harwich to Liverpool Street on 4th September using the newly built 60163 *Tornado*. It's too soon for timings, but there may be some in the August newsletter or at the September club meeting.

