



# RESTORER

EDITOR: KEN AUSTIN

## EDITORIAL

The December AGM is here again and time to vote for your committee for the coming year. With existing members of the committee prepared to stand again other than Christine Chaplin resigning, having been Secretary for about eight years since agreeing to "*do the job just until we found someone else*", now finding other activities sometimes co-inciding with committee meetings and a recent illness making transport difficult. We thank her for her contribution over the years. We are now in need of a new Club Secretary, so please have a chat with Chairman Tom or any other committee member if you would like more details of what this role entails. It would be good if we could fill this post at the December AGM, but please do not assume this was so if you were not there on the night.

It's nothing to do with tractors or engines, but still of interest to many as one of the largest restoration projects ever. Some members may have seen the news of a Vulcan V-Bomber having flown again after 14 years on 18<sup>th</sup> October, following a ten year major restoration at Bruntingthorpe Airfield in Leicestershire, where it successfully completed a 35 minute test flight. Once tests are completed, which will include some time back at RAF Waddington for calibration purposes, I understand that it may operate out of Duxford.

I read that the Science Museum bid to rebuild Wroughton storage site near Swindon (which the club visited some years ago) as a museum in it's own right will not be happening, lottery funding having been refused.

Some interesting results from Cheffins Sale at the end of October saw a Doe Triple D tractor make £52,000. That's more than many traction engines make and finding a new home across the Irish sea. A Northrop 5004 originally rescued from a scrap yard made £19,500, no mention was made of what the scrapper or person who wrote it off may have said, had they heard about it! The 1886 Ransomes 8hp portable steam engine included in the sale at Easton Farm Park found itself going back to it's roots in north Wales, it's home when first purchased. In a different league was the £2.4M achieved by Bonhams for the oldest surviving and 4<sup>th</sup> produced Rolls Royce - I would not mind just the buyers premium on that.

There is a new book just published, nicely timed for Christmas, which will be of interest to anyone into garden machinery, *Seventy Years of Garden Machinery*. The original *Fifty Years of Garden Machinery*, regarded as the bible on the subject, has I believe been out of print. I have just bought a copy and see that this is not just a reprint with additional material, but a re-write with many different illustrations and text changes. As well as now covering the additional 20 years the layout is good, with chapters on different types of machine and by manufacturer alphabetically within Chapters. It's £24.95, but a big book of over 300 pages with nearly 500 illustrations. From Old Pond Publishing 01473-238200. From the same publisher there is also *Just a Moment*, a paperback of photographs by the Titshall Brothers taken around 1930 of working life and machines in Suffolk, as featured over recent months in the East Anglian Daily Times, including many farming related and transport subjects. 200 photo's, 128 pages, £9.95.

We expect to have another coach trip in the spring, destination yet to be decided. One suggestion has been a return to Thursford, giving us an opportunity to see the museum when open in it's normal role and possibly incorporating the behind the scenes tour, or something else on route. Your suggestions welcome.

I expect this issue to be a bit difficult to fill, with no items for sale and a small event diary, so excuse me if I rabbit on a bit, trying to pad it out.

Finally, we wish you all a Happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year.

## **FORTHCOMING CLUB EVENTS THURSFORD CHRISTMAS CONCERT.** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December

The coach leaves from Little Tey at 8.30am and picks up in Colchester (Cowdray Centre) and Ipswich (Tesco). On the way there will be a stop at Holt for lunch, raid on antique shops, or even a dash up the road to see the rebuilt station on the North Norfolk steam Railway. The return journey will be direct. Fully booked.

### **JANUARY CLUBNIGHT** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8.00pm.

Not normally the best attended meeting so this will be a social evening with no speaker, but you have the opportunity to chat, bring along a collection to display, even your photo's or latest Christmas present to play with if it will fit through the door.

### **FEBRUARY CLUBNIGHT** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm.

Talk on the History of Ransomes & Rapier by Elizabeth Townsend.

This well known company once occupied a large area of Ipswich, seen on the right as you come into town from the Manningtree direction along Wherstead Road, now redeveloped. Famous for their huge cranes, but also many other products, I believe they even produced items as diverse as the revolving stage for the London Palladium, sluice gates for major water projects worldwide, railway turntables and breakdown cranes, cement mixer lorry bodies and even humble narrow gauge railway locomotives, some of which survive at Amberley. I think they only built two small standard gauge locos, used as their works shunters. Interestingly, the first was not a success and replaced by an ancient 1887 Manning Wardle steam loco which had previously worked on a local brickworks 1½ mile line which connected at Westerfield. It then worked at the Vickers-Petter Ipswich factory before nearly meeting it's end in a scrapyard, but was sold on to Ransomes & Rapier who resurrected it using a Garrett traction engine boiler to get six more years work out of it until replaced by the second one. Ironically, the rail link to Griffin Wharf which served their works still remains, now used by the occasional train transporting stone dredged from the sea, whilst the large rail complex serving the rest of the docks has closed and recently been severed, although track may still be found in many areas.

### **FUTURE POSSIBILITIES**

Welsh state quarries, Local docks shipping in the past 25 years, Lighthouses (none confirmed).  
May 1<sup>st</sup> ...British Xylonite Co works at Brantham by Mike Scurrell

## **REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS**

**OCTOBER CLUBNIGHT** – Jennifer Jones gave a talk on *WW1 in the Somme*, making it all the more relevant to the local area by including well researched detail of local memorials. I must admit that prior to the evening I had doubts as to the interest in this month's topic, but as usual was pleased to be wrong. Jennifer knew her stuff and kept us attentive throughout, providing a thoroughly interesting evening, well illustrated with slides.

### **WHEELS BY LAMPLIGHT.** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October. At the Ipswich Transport Museum.

We had good coverage in the museum's Priory Press newsletter with no less than five colour photo's of club members displays. Adam Munson and Alan Mattin got half a page each, both illuminated to good effect by Tom Fisher's floodlight (with Alan's head occupying centre stage on the front cover) and two of Harold Landin's display with Richard in view and even one of my own collection. We had an opportunity to see the progress made on the tram under restoration, well advanced now and looking superb and for which another of our members, Chris Armour, made several replacement fittings as part of his business.

**NOVEMBER CLUBNIGHT** - *Policing in the Past.* Maureen Scollun made a dramatic entrance dressed in period police uniform – dispelling our initial thought/fear of a Trick or Treat, Kiss-a gram, or Salvation Army collection when she announced that "This is a Raid". Maureen provided a good mix of reminiscences and portrayal of early years of police forces and the attitude towards WPC's when they were first introduced. A few of those present were recognised – as past work colleagues, or so they would have us believe!

**RIDE THE VINTAGE BUSES DAY.** Ipswich Transport Museum. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Being on my doorstep, there was no excuse for not attending. Several other club members had also taken the opportunity to sample the vintage transport. It was a new experience to view all the building work taking place around the docks from the top deck of a vintage Lowestoft bus, without having to keep an eye on the road, then venturing into areas of the West Bank dockside, across the water from the Cliff Quay Brewery which the club visited a few years ago, but now sadly closed. There were 22 visiting buses, dating back to 1947, plus 5 of the museum's own operating services around town at some time or other. It was amusing (and probably childish) to see people waiting at a normal bus stop making a move in anticipation of it being their bus, only to find it full of strange people grinning at them as it passed.

## **RALLY NEWS**

### ***Update by Bob Starling***

*Planning for the 2008 Rally is well under way with meetings held in October and November. This year we have updated the entry form.*

*We still need someone as Military Section Organiser and also Marshals for both days, or anyone willing to assist on the day, as part of the Auction team. We would ideally also like back up Section Organisers, with a view to sampling the job and maybe taking on the role in future. Any volunteers please contact myself or any committee member. Wishing all members a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

The 2008 Aldham Rally entry form is attached to this newsletter. You will notice a revised form layout which only includes one entry slip. The entry terms & conditions, incorporating the ever increasing regulations, are now printed on the reverse and these are not now lost when additional entry slips are used as previously. Extra copies are available as detailed on the form. We also at last recognise that e-mail and sat-nav exist. Past exhibitors will also get a copy sent by your section organiser – it's too complex to avoid duplication. We tried to overcome our insurers requirement introduced last year, for a copy of exhibitors insurance to be sent in for inspection before the event, but to no avail. We do not like it any more than you do.

## **FEDERATION OF BRITISH HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUBS**

Again not a lot of significance to our interests has been introduced recently although several topics are in the pot, such as the use of A-frames by cars or light commercials (but not applicable for agricultural vehicles, tractors or road locomotives) for towing vehicles, where it is pointed out that such use is regulated the same as applies to towed trailers (unless for recovery of broken down vehicles) regarding brakes, lighting etc.

The impending restriction on the purchase of cellulose paint without a special licence has a possibility of being got around if it can be classified as 'Special Finishes' for historic vehicle use, where the allowable VOC limit is higher. It has already been said that it will not now effect cellulose aerosol can sales.

Strong representation is being made by the Federation to get changed a proposal by the **Driving Standards Agency** which would require anyone wanting a licence to drive a historic HGV for private use to undergo training similar to a professional commercial driver and train for a **Certificate of Professional Competence**, rather than simply to pass a 'vocational' driving test. The DSA proposes to link the training and testing required for a CPC into that required for a basic HGV or PSV licence. This would require applicants to learn about matters of no relevance to a hobby situation and to train on modern vehicles at substantial expense, before they can learn how to drive the vehicle of interest.

*Drive It Day* on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April is about showing how many old vehicles there are being preserved, but at the same time indicating how few are *normally* on the road at any time, other than on this day. The aim is simply to be seen, so that the public is reminded that historic vehicles exist and that there are lots of people preserving them for posterity. All that is asked is that if you have the opportunity, use your vehicle that day.

**MEMBERSHIP** Lots of new members to report this month (well not that new in some cases, as the list of these was not with me in time for the last newsletter). We welcome Ken Baker from Colchester, Dave Bulford from Colchester, Dr Guy Goundry from Gt Holland, Roger Todd from Walton, Neil Warden from Gt Bentley, Albert Frost from Woodham Ferrers, and Maurice Saffel also from Woodham Ferrers.

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

**Renewal time is here again.** Due from 1st November (except if first joining after 1st June this year).

Again no changes are proposed for the coming year, so rates remain as:

Adult £5.00; Child (under 16 on 1st Nov) £2.50;

Joint (husband/wife/partners) £7.50; Family (2 adults + children) £10.00.

Joint or Family membership gives entitlement to one copy of the Restorer

A postal renewal slip is provided for use if not renewing at club nights - please return to Membership Secretary, Pauline Mattin,

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**Please renew the following NEETEC Memberships**

Name(s) & Address

I enclose £ (Payable to NEETEC). Please note below any change to address, postcode or telephone.

**MEMBERS MARKET PLACE** (Send or telephone your free adverts to Ken Austin on 01473 747007).  
**FOR SALE.**

(For the first time nothing has been sent in for inclusion here)

**EVENTS DIARY** Any omissions do not imply an event is not taking place.

**CLUB NIGHTS** ARE HELD IN THE WIVENHOE FOOTBALL CLUB SOCIAL CLUB, LOCATED NEAR THE ESSEX UNIVERSITY, COLCHESTER. Normally held on the first Thursday, 8pm.

**Directions** - Leave Colchester on the A133 towards Clacton. Turn right at the top of Clingoe Hill (University towers seen on right) onto the B1027 signposted Alresford & St Osyth, then at next traffic lights go left (still 1027) towards Alresford (not Wivenhoe). In half a mile, at cross-roads (near the floodlight), turn right; within a 100 yards the entrance gate is seen on your left. Use door on the end of building seen to your left as you enter car park. **MEMBERS GUESTS ARE WELCOME** at normal clubnights.

*Event listings not yet published*

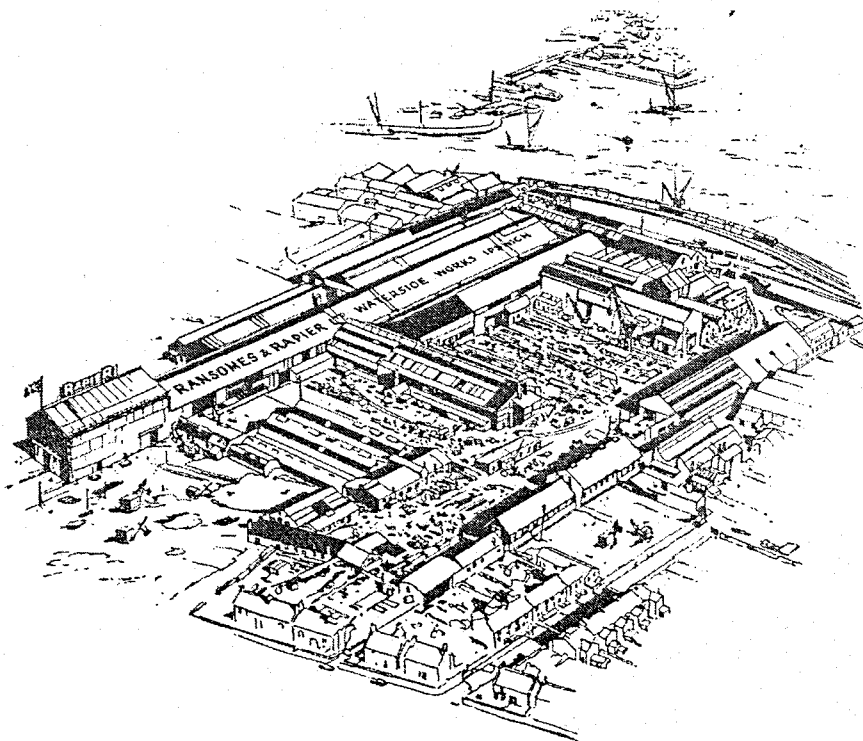
- Thu 6 December **Clubnight.** AGM & Christmas Buffet
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec **Club coach to THURSFORD CHRISTMAS CONCERT.**
- Thu 3 January **Clubnight** Social evening. A chance to bring something of interest along
- Thu 7 February **Clubnight** History of Ransome & Rapier, by Elizabeth Townsend
- Thu 6 March **Clubnight** To be confirmed
- Thu 3 April **Clubnight.** To be confirmed
- Sun 20 April National Drive It Day. Get your old vehicle out on the road.
- Sat 26 April Cheffins Vintage Auction
- Thu 1 May **Clubnight** Mike Scurrall talk on British Xylonite Works at Brantham.
- Thu 5 June **Club Field set-up evening** at White Colne
- w/e 7,8 June **Aldham Rally** at White Colne
- Sat 26 July Cheffins Vintage Auction
- Sat 18 October Cheffins Vintage Auction

**Late news** - Steam train on sat 22 Dec. Colchester stops app 1145 & 1930. Details on steamdreams.com

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**COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN - Tom Fisher; SECRETARY - (vacant); VICE-CHAIRMAN - John Chiles;  
MEMBERSHIP SEC.- Pauline Mattin; TREASURER - Roger Attmere; RALLY SEC.- Bob Starling;  
EDITOR- Ken Austin; DISTRIBUTION - Adam Munson; LAY MEMBERS -Jim Roots, Dave Culham.



THE SUBJECT OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING