

RESTORER

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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.

ALDHAM RALLY NEWS

Rally field work day, Sunday 10th May. *Report by Bob Starling.*

I had to make a pre-inspection of the field earlier in the week to assess the work required and inspect the field adjoining the campsite area which we will be using this year for tent camping. The land owner has completed the leveling of the low area in the car parking field. More trees have been felled around the lake area to allow further enlargement work on the lake after the rally. The weather was pleasant on the Sunday morning with the usual tasks to do – removing dead and hanging branches, cut back hedges, trim trees, collecting wood debris and leveling areas around the barn, lower part of the first field and the island area with the use of the land owners Fore Loader. Many thanks to those who came along to help; Roger Attmere, Robert Cook, Adam Munson, Philip Copeman, Martin & Mathew Stubbins and Adrian Fox. A further visit will be required to finish outstanding tasks.

Bob Starling.

FORTHCOMING CLUB EVENTS

JULY CLUBNIGHT VISIT Thursday 2nd **The Weavers Engine Collection on Mersea Island.** 7.00 pm

Those who have been to see this collection previously will need no introduction, but for the benefit of others new to it you will find this collection housed in sheds and back garden of a normal town residence in the middle of West Mersea. A vertical boiler in steam provides power to drive several immaculate steam stationary engines and other internal combustion stationary engines, some quite large, are also running. Various other 'interesting things' were also evident on our last visit and are probably still about the place. Always an enjoyable evening for a natter, with hot drinks laid on.

Directions - (Sat-nav Postcode **CO5 8JL** or get a map off the web from multimap or streetmap.co.)

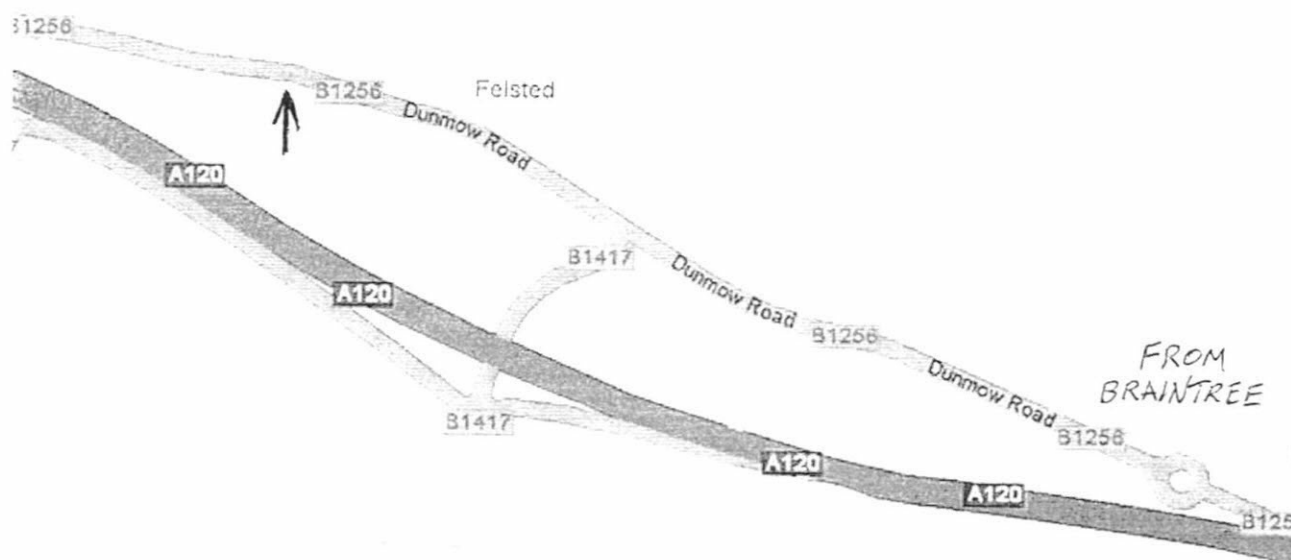
Once over the Strood keep right at the fork then at the start of civilisation, AFTER a 90° right bend, turn right by aiming STRAIGHT AHEAD onto Colchester Road (as the B1025 goes off to the left). When the road next bends 90° left it becomes High Street North, then take the third right (after Firs Road) into MERSEA AVENUE. No. 20 is on the right. Park where you can on road.

TENDRING SHOW. Saturday 11th July

The usual club display is planned for this event. Advance booking is essential to obtain passes. Do it soon, as we only get a pre-booked number of tickets. Dave Culham is co-ordinating this and will have more details. If you are interested please contact Dave. 01206-393504.

AUGUST CLUBNIGHT VISIT Thursday 7th. **To Clark's collection and organ museum. From 7.00pm**

This is a return visit from about seven years ago. There may also be an engine or two on site.



2009 THURS福德 CONCERT

We have now sold all of our allocation for this year's concert on the afternoon of **Saturday 19th December.** There is a reserve list open if you did not book in time. All-in transport and concert ticket cost £35 for members, £40 non-members. via Pauline Mattin 01206-210307.

REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS

APRIL CLUBNIGHT -

This month saw the first use of the new built-in wall screen when David Austin gave his talk on the *History of Colchester. Part 1*. The earlier 7.30 start time obviously makes things a bit tight on time for some members and this, combined with no newsletter to collect could have led to a reduced attendance. However, numbers held up well and David's talk was well received, covering the period spanning the Roman occupation. I doubt if I was alone in learning something new about the local area of that time, although one trivial snippet for me – noticing the name *Dacia* on a map of former Roman Empire countries – explained the origin of the name applied to a make of car produced in an Eastern European country when the original tooling from the old Renault 12 model was sold off and used to produce their look-alike model. I doubt if that was intended as part of a Roman History talk.

MAY CLUBNIGHT - "YAK Chat"

By Nigel Willson, a Display Pilot and Instructor who operates his ex USSR YAK-52 out of Earls Colne Airfield. The evening lived up to expectation, one of the best that I can recall, with everyone 'glued to it'. What a pity that several regular members were away on holiday at the time, but we still had a reasonable attendance. Nigel covered every aspect in a most entertaining way, utilising state of the art projection equipment to combine his talk with visual and audio effects. I doubt if anyone previously realised what is involved and the legalities that have to be complied with. His YAK52 aircraft, displays and regulations were comprehensively covered in a way that catered both for those with no great knowledge of aircraft and also those with a thirst for detail. The enthusiastic 'Any Questions' session afterwards indicated the large interest of the audience.

CLUB CRANK-UP AT LT. TEY. Sunday 3rd May.

We thank Alan and Pauline Mattin for their work and hospitality in staging this event

Alan and Pauline hosted their yearly Crank-Up in the meadow in Church Lane, Little Tey on the May Bank Holiday Sunday. The weather was kind enough, dry with sunny intervals in the morning, but got cooler. The event gets more popular each year, the variety and quality of exhibits would be well worthy of a full rally and could be described as such – in reality a private club members rally without public. Being in practice a private function, this well organised but informal set up has the advantage of avoiding the 'inconvenience' of providing for the general public, with a minimum of ropes and manpower requirements.

I was only able to put in a brief attendance for the committee meeting held on site, other commitments (footie) meant I had to drag myself away, so Alan has kindly provided the following report.

Many thanks to all the good folk who supported the Little Tey Crank-up and Road Run. Each year we are pleased to welcome more & more folk along with some very varied exhibits, including this year:- Old Radios, bottles, tins, signs, a working Master Clock & Slaves- which took some setting up, a good selection of Stationary Engines, some we welcomed for the first time, as we did the Bedford OB coach, also Military vehicles, old cars, several tractors, including first time out a showpiece Massey Harris & unique one wheeled Pegson tractor, and up from Hampshire a Standard Fordson en-route to the Aldham Rally. As always, the Run to the 'Chequers' was very popular, followed by the usual very social barbecue, tea & cakes on the meadow. Thank you all for a very good day and for the kind donations to our little church of £79.75, much needed and gratefully received.

ALTERNATIVE COACH TRIP

We are not alone in finding it difficult to fill a coach (other than to Thursford) and have been offered places on a trip being run by the IDHTS from Ipswich.

This will be on Saturday 8th August, leaving at 8.30, back 5.30 - 6.00. Going first to the Mid-Norfolk Railway at Wymondham and after a stop at the *Brief Encounter* Tea room, by train on to Dereham. From Dereham the coach goes on to Norwich for a river cruise. Cost £30 for coach, train & boat Includes refreshments at Wymondham and on the river.

Book direct with them (**NOT via Pauline**). Telephone Stuart McNae 01473-626226. More details on their web site (www.ipswichanddistricthistoricaltransportsociety.co.uk).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

No new members to report this month. If you know someone interested in joining, membership forms are available at the rally from either Pauline Mattin, the car section, or the Stationary Engine line book-in tent. This can now also be downloaded from our web site www.neetec.co.uk

We have had an encouraging response to the request for members to notify e-mail addresses if they wish, so that in the event of any short notice change they could then be informed in time. These would not be used for routine purposes. You can add yours by e-mailing the editor at neetec.club@yahoo.com

