



The

RESTORER

EDITOR: KEN AUSTIN

As usual, it's been a hectic last month getting everything completed to meet press advert and programme printers deadlines, also the photo copier making it's high mileage evident just when needing to get the newsletter ready early in time for the rally. Going away on holiday within that period - compounded by family visitors last weekend, appointments and other commitments all added to midnight oil consumption. Not possessing the correct swear word to fix the copier, I was relieved when the engineer came to the rescue by re-making an obsolete part and also fitting a replacement feed roller which resembled a soggy jelly baby ! You will see the result, but it is too late to say how or at what quality this edition was printed. The copier has now produced six times more pages in "retirement" than it did in all it's commercial life! A newer machine is available at a very reasonable price if necessary, but the preservation habit or challenge is also hard to resist by the engineer. The problem started during the last minute printing of this year's Membership list, leaving marks on some copies. If your copy suffered let me know if you need a replacement.

Members at the April club night meeting were informed that the date shown in the Newsletter for the May meeting was incorrect and should be a day later on that one occasion, on the Friday. Posted copies of the restorer were being hand amended. It was known that this was to be on the Friday when we first booked Stanway, as they had a long standing May booking, but force of habit got the better of me when compiling the newsletter. I do apologise and hope that nobody escaped the net and had a wasted Thursday journey.

Aldham Rally - Do have a look in at the NEETEC Club display tent being introduced at the Aldham Rally for the first time. As we decided against sending raffle tickets out with the newsletter, do not forget that they are available on site from the stall near the field intersection. Future Volunteers are still needed for such jobs as sign erection, both on and off site, camp site marshal, craft marquee and stall section organiser. Is anyone running a generator in the stationary engine line to power a TV showing the England match?

What can best be described as a Water based Gt Dorset steam Fair, attracting 250,000 visitors from all over Europe and beyond, *Dordrecht in Steam* was incorporated into our week long holiday on the Dutch Waterways, with our cruise ship somehow allowed to take part in the Friday evening event when a hundred or so vintage vessels - many steam powered - orbit the large expanse of waterfront lined with thousands of spectators from about 8pm until after dark. The range of vessels, apart from our large modern ship, ran from small speedboats and launches, steam tugs, restored 100 year old passenger saloon boats with steam organs, through to the ridiculous - like a floating crane fitted with a coal grab constantly picking up large volumes of water (= half that of a fuel tanker lorry) and dumping it from a great height, accompanied by numerous steam sirens, even a restored Bucket-Chain Dredger. Irrespective of this lot milling about, nothing stops for the busy river's large traffic which somehow fights its way through the mayhem without running anything down. In the UK, Health and Safety would have kittens! But this was just the opener, with the whole town given over to the weekend events, with all the usual steam rally things, including several from the UK. Even local transport goes over to vintage buses and a steam train, needed to move visitors from site to site. Late Saturday evening anything can happen, like Horse Drawn Steam Fire Engines racing through the streets with whistles screaming on the way to put out a load of wooden pallets, with much water squirting and Showman's Engines illuminating the scene. Sunday is heaving with day visitors, but they would have missed the earlier best bits, although need the time to see everything else in one day.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tendring Show. Saturday 10th July.

We have our usual invite for tractors & engines. Dave Culham is taking bookings. If you do not book in good time, we will not be allocated enough entry tickets.

July Club Visit

Harwich Guided Walk. Meet at Halfpenny Pier at 7.15 for 7.30 start. You may wish to look on the web site www.harwich-society.co.uk

August Club Visit. 19th August. 7.30pm. www.earm.co.uk

To the East Anglian Railway Museum at Chappel & Wakes Colne Station. No need for a map as the viaduct is sufficient landmark. Guided tour and possibly an engine giving rides, could be steam or diesel.

COACH TRIPS

Not having a lot of success with venue choices, we are taking the safer option of a **coach to London**, with drop-off point allowing members to do their own thing. With a date later in the year on Saturday 2nd October this gives good advance notice, departing from Little Tey at 9.00am, then leaving London for home at 5.30pm. This is open to MEBCC Members. Price to be determined when we have coach quote, will be given in the next newsletter. Please do not leave bookings to the last minute or you could find it off by then if we do not know of your interest in good time.

Our annual coach to Thursford Christmas Concert is on 18th December. Places are £37 members/£42 guests. Member subsidy is £5. Book via Pauline. No other reductions as all places cost the same to the club.

REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS

APRIL CLUB NIGHT.

A rather disappointing turn out for this talk on the Essex Air Ambulance organisation, possibly as we had a similar talk a few years back. In a way this was just as well because the car park was already full when we arrived, with a football match in progress. Unusual for a Thursday, but can happen when a fixture back-log must be cleared by season end. At least it was a nice evening for a walk from where parking was to be found. The talk covered similar aspects of the operation to that previously, but from a different perspective.

WATCHING THE AIR RACE.

I went to see what the recent Air Races were about on 18th April. We settled on positioning ourselves in the "V" of the tight turning point near Levington and took a picnic lunch with us. Parked in a field entrance and with our folding chairs planted we had a good view as the aircraft flew numerous laps crossing the estuary, initially appearing at evenly spaced intervals. Presumably there was some sort of handicapping as those at the back reduced the gap until on the final lap several were virtually flying wing tip to wing tip. It was evident from watching the turns who were the experts, shaving seconds off the lap times with sharper turns and levelling out on the new course without wavering. It lasted an hour or so and was entertaining to watch.

CLUB CRANK UP

The Crank-up on Sunday 2nd May, hosted by Alan and Pauline Mattin, was ever popular, to the extent that un-invited rain again gate-crashed the event, but could not put a damper on it. Irrespective of the weather, I had to make a sharp exit after the Committee meeting to avoid wasting my Football season ticket - to watch my team get well beaten on a wet afternoon - bad decision. Road-run participants did try to deter me by causing an instant tail-back on the main road. Our thanks to the Mattins for their efforts in organising it.

RALLY FIELD PREPARATION. Sunday 9th May. *Report by Bob Starling.*

This was well supported, with all the usual site clearance tasks undertaken.

Thanks to Roger Attmere, Mat & Garvin Garwood, Martin & Matt Stubbins, Tom Fisher, Adrian Fox, Phil Copeman, Robert Cook, Rod Heywood and Adam Munson. Apologies to anyone overlooked.

MAY CLUB NIGHT.

Roy Walters presentation on Colchester's Dutch Quarter, held one day later than the normal 3rd Thursday, continued the history of and life in this area up to the present time. Roy presented this in his usual humorous and entertaining way.

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

The visit of Britannia class 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* on 11th March to Sheringham and Holt using the newly reinstated Level Crossing was widely covered by TV. Having toyed with the Idea of buying a Day Rover ticket to Sheringham to witness this, I settled for watching the proceeds via the NNR's webcams on the PC – warmer, less hassle and cheaper – and instead opted for an evening local viewing.

Being after dark I saw no point in taking a camera along, so choosing a convenient viewing location where I could sit in the warm car whilst waiting, set of for the level crossing at Claydon, north of Ipswich, where the closing barriers would warn me when to venture out of the car.

This turned out to be better than expected as the floodlights at the adjacent scrap yard provided a floodlit view of the train and highlighted the billowing steam and smoke effect as it sped past in full cry, giving a lasting memory which would not have been possible if watching through a viewfinder, even though there was enough lighting to provide an atmospheric movie shot not unlike the opening scene in 'Brief Encounter'.

As expected, the impracticable attempt to mix steam with the rush-hour in London came to nothing. However, the Bury trip rescheduled to 8th May did run, as did Tornado on 28th May.

I managed to miss both of these, what with Son Graham and Allison's wedding clashing with the *Oliver Cromwell* Bury tour (how's that for an alibi against it being me seen on TV nearly getting splattered) and away on holiday when *Tornado* came. Other opportunities (to see it that is) come on 17th July & 18th September when *Cromwell* runs from Liverpool St to Norwich via Ipswich, returning via Lowestoft and Ipswich. Hopefully these will run at such times that allow me to see them and any footie on the same day.

Cromwell has been out of service recently with a firebox crack, but this is expected to be sorted in good time. Provision times- LivSt0940; Colchester1100-25; Norwich-Lowestoft-Ipswich-Colchester1944-200?; LivSt 2140.

ON THE BOX AGAIN

Either I did not keep out of the way well enough last time or Anglia TV are getting desperate, as they want to include the vintage machines which they were eyeing up earlier, in the programme going out at 6.30pm on Monday 21st June. The allotment site at Castle Hill in Ipswich where I am site warden has been chosen as the location for an Anglia TV series, broadcast live during the lunchtime and evening news programmes. Also viewable on-line on Anglia Extra (the embarrassing bits) on their web site. www.itv.com/anglia

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have two new members to welcome this month – Les & Dawn Weavers from Pebmarsh. Also Mike Barnes rejoining.

Just before printing I was shocked to learn that our recent custodian of the Video Library, John Thomsett had died of a Stroke on 1st June. I had worked with John for many years and we became good friends, so this was so sad. Though not active in the preservation field as such, his interest and inclination was apparent in his joy in trying to fix anything and his enthusiasm for his sizeable collection of oil lamps. John had never been in the best of health in all the time that I had known him, having previously suffered physically in two road accidents. We send our condolences to his wife Pamela and family.

Also sad to report is the passing of a long-term past member, Nelson Blowers, who first joined the club in it's earliest days, helping at rallies. Our sympathy again goes to his wife Dione and family.

BALMORAL & WAVERLEY CRUISES.

The cruise season in our area starts this year with MV Balmoral trips between 25th July and 4th August.

These all involve calls at various local places along our coast, mostly on trips to or from London, and are by coach in one direction or other, as follows.

Gt Yarmouth 28/7, Southwold 27/7, 28/7, Ipswich 25/7, 29/7, 30/7, Harwich 25/7, 30/7; Clacton 25/7, 27/7, 29/7, 30/7, 3/8. See local tourist office or www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk 08451304647 for full details.

The Paddle Steamer Waverley takes over for the latter part, between 25th September and 10th October with three local round trips (rather than those with a coach in one direction). These are Southend-Clacton-Southend on 25th September; Clacton-Blackwater-Clacton on 29th September & 4th October. Numerous Southend calls are not show as some turn right from the Thames.

MEMBERS MARKET PLACE (Send or telephone your free adverts to Ken Austin)

WANTED

Engine cowling for a JAP 5 engine.

Bill Pentney

Cast Iron Wheels suitable for a Shepherds Hut.

Kim Thirlby

EVENTS DIARY

Any omissions do not imply an event is not taking place.

MEMBERS GUESTS ARE WELCOME without charge at normal Club night meetings. Some club event details could change later.

- Thu 10 June **CLUB Rally Field set up evening**
- w/e 12,13 June **ALDHAM RALLY**
- w/e 19,20 June Monks Eleigh Bygones Collectors Club Rally Gt Waldingfield Airfield
- w/e 26,27 June Wings, Wheels & Steam at Rougham Airfield, Nr Bury St Ed.
- w/e 3,4 July FMPS Melford Hall Rally
- Sat 10 July **Tendring Show** Book with Dave Culham
- Thu 15/07/10 **CLUB VISIT** Harwich Guided Walk. Halfpenny Pier 7.15 for 7.30pm
- Fr-Sun 16-18 July Weeting Steam Rally
- Sat 24 July Cheffins Vintage Auction
- w/e 24,25 July West Bergholt Vehicle Rally
- w/e 7,8 August Thurlow Steam Rally
- Th-Fr 12,13 August Lowestoft Air Show
- Thur 19 August **CLUB VISIT** E A Railway Museum guided tour. 7.30pm
- w/e 14,15 August Air Display at Rougham Airfield, Nr Bury St Ed.
- w/e 14,15 August Stowmarket East Anglian Museum of Rural Life Rally
- w/e 21,22 August Lincolnshire Steam Rally
- Th-Fr 26,27 August Clacton Air Show
- We-Su 1-5 Sept Gt Dorset Steam Fair
- Su 5 September Maldon District Vintage Tractor & Engine Club Working Day & Rally
- w/e 11,12 Sept Barleylands Essex Country Show
- w/e 11,12 Sept Haddenham Steam Rally
- Thur 16 Sept **Club Night.** Essex at War, presentation by Doug Killick.
- w/e 18,19 Sept Bedfordshire Steam & Country Fayre, Old Warden Park
- w/e 18,19 Sept Henham Steam Rally
- Sat 2 October **CLUB COACH TO LONDON.** Book with Pauline
- w/e 2,3 October 1940's Weekend at Rougham Airfield, Nr Bury St Ed.
- Sun 3 October ITM. Ride the buses day
- Sat 16 October **Wheels by Lamplight** at Ipswich Transport Museum
- Sat 16 October Cheffins Vintage Auction.
- Sat 16 October Mersea Island Ploughing Match, Rewalls Farm, East Mersea
- Thur 21 October **Club Night.** Harvest Memories by Ashley Cooper
- Thur 18 November **Club Night.** Bygones talk & Artifacts, Niel Catchpole
- Sat 18 December **CLUB COACH to Thursford** Christmas Concert, book with Pauline Mattin

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