



The

RESTORER

EDITOR: KEN AUSTIN

EDITORIAL

At last I bit the bullet and sent my magneto armature away for rewinding. Having heard tales of this taking ages if having this done locally in Essex, I opted to send it away as postage would be the same wherever. There seemed to be a choice of about four repairers so I opted for one in Gloucestershire who mainly does motor-cycle magneto's. I was delighted to have it back just 7 days after it arrived at the repairers, looking like new, having been varnish impregnated and stove baked as well. Once re-assembled, I was hesitant in testing for a spark in case I would find I had wasted the money and the fault lay elsewhere. Come the moment, just a gentle slow turn of the drive with the lead held in my hand gave a kick better than that felt from a modern car. Now to fix the carb and get it (a Ransomes 1933 Mower) running before full restoration.

At this time of year, with the Rally season almost over there is not a lot left to report on and the Forthcoming Events diary is also nearly empty. It becomes a struggle to fill the restorer, so if I rabbit on even more than normal, that's why - alternatively I could double the print type size or maybe you could contribute an article.

Whilst still enjoying being Editor, for some while I have felt that it is time for a change. I first took the job on sometime back in the 1980's - on a temporary basis - and now, after a quarter of a Century, there must be others able to have a go. In my early days the newsletter was still produced on a duplicator, but only about 40 copies rather than the 200 now. When I took it on PC's had not been invented. Some years later I got lunchtime access to industrial Word Processors that were in for repair where I worked at Philips. Later a company ex demo system came my way and was used for about ten years until the PC age began.

The satisfaction comes when I have each issue finally printed, collated and stapled, ready for clubnight. That's when I usually discover either some minor error, even if it is just a double space or missing dot. Sometimes late news or adverts need adding, but as I also do the printing it's possible to amend things close to clubnight. Distributing copies at club night is enjoyable, giving the opportunity to meet members present, if only briefly - but with so many names there are always some that I can not commit to memory when marking the check list. Originally I also did the Postal Distribution, but for several years Adam Munson has taken this on, giving me time to clear a backlog. Not knowing who will be at meetings, I still need to print a full run of address labels.

I am not getting any younger and have become concerned that it is irresponsible to have too many eggs in one basket and also feel that the content is getting stale and in need of new blood. Apart from producing and printing it, there are numerous tasks which would also need re allocating were I to suddenly not be available. I maintain the membership data base, from which Address Labels, Checklist and the Membership Directory are produced, along with numerous other printing requirements for the club and rally, compiling the programme, press adverts, posters, passes and the Ring Co-ordinator job at the rally.

There must be numerous members now possessing the equipment needed to take on the job, although wiser to spread tasks around. The printing is another matter; having the club owned photo-copier taking up a fair part of our third bedroom/office and being able to fix most of it's ailments, or have access to a sympathetic professional, may make it harder to unload that task. Just last week I took the opportunity to obtain another photo-copier, a lighter, smaller, more modern machine (cheap at a Boot Sale - where else?) which will make it easier to hand the job on. I am prepared to stand for election again this year, although would be happy to step down if someone wanted to have a go, or this could be a progressive handover as I am happy to retain a number of tasks and could even still print the newsletter if the finished copy was emailed to me.

may then even find time to actually enter an exhibit at the Aldham Rally again.

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the North East Essex Tractor & Engine Club will be held at 8.00pm on Thursday December 16th at Stanway Rovers Social Club, Stanway, Colchester. This will be followed by our free Christmas Buffet.

Anyone interested in standing for a place on the committee, or wishing to nominate someone (with their permission) should first contact the Chairman, Martin Stubbins and submit nominations to him in writing, detailing Post involved, Nominee, Proposer and Seconder, to arrive by 30th November.

Anyone wishing to formally include an item under Any Other Business should notify the Chairman by 30th November; any matters raised on the night will be at the Chairman's discretion. The Agenda is included with this newsletter. Minutes of last year's AGM will be available at the meeting, not being to hand at the moment.

ALDHAM RALLY

We have already had the first Rally Committee meeting in preparation for next year. Mat will initially handle the Craft Marquee entries next year, but we still need someone to take this on. Mick & Shirley will continue for now with the stalls, but again we need someone to take this on in the long term.

We tried using a motoring organisation for road signage last year, but this was not effective or good value as the local authorities rejected most of the requested locations for display. Could you help by erecting and then removing road signs either side of the rally weekend?

Entry forms will be sent out to past exhibitors before Christmas and also included in the next restorer and be available on our neetec.co.uk web site.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER CLUB NIGHT. Thursday 21st, 8.00pm.

Harvest Memories. Presentation by Ashley Cooper.

NOVEMBER CLUB NIGHT. Thursday 18th, 8.00pm.

Bygones talk & Artifacts, presentation by Niel Catchpole.

CLUB VISIT TO MAULDONS BREWERY AT SUDBURY. Tuesday 23rd November.

This conducted tour, Brewery history presentation, refreshments and Beer sampling has now been arranged.

This is for a Maximum of 20 people, for a 2 hour visit, starting at **7.00pm** prompt.

The Brewery want to confirm numbers as sandwiches are included with the beer sampling, so we need to take bookings with a deposit, any outstanding sum payable on the night.

The charge is £10 per head, which should be paid to Martin (not Pauline), but please let him know 01206-306588 in good time of your intent (even before paying deposit) as first come, first served. Places are limited.

Directions -

The brewery is located at - *The Black Adder Brewery, 13 Church Field Road, Sudbury*. For anyone using your Christmas/Birthday present Sat-Nav, you need **CO10 2YA**. If like me, reluctant to throw away a perfectly good 10 year old road map, approach on the A134 from Colchester/Ipswich. Arriving at Sudbury, go Right at the roundabout (still A134) onto Northern Road for the Industrial Estate, continue to the next roundabout and exit 3 o'clock onto Waldingfield Road for a short distance, then again exit 3 o'clock at the next roundabout onto Church Field Road. Beyond the undeveloped area to your left, after the first three buildings that side, look out for a Left turn opposite Suffolk Court, where you may see other club members looking lost!

If this does not work blame my interpretation of the *Bing* Map on the web, resorted to for this last bit (Do not use *Street Map*, they have road names displaced).

For the brave, or if familiar with the estate, there is a slightly more direct but complicated route through the estate via the Milner Road dog-leg.

DECEMBER AGM & FREE BUFFET. Thursday 16th, 8.00pm.

Following the same format as in previous years, we start with the AGM followed by the free buffet.

COACH TO THURSFORD CHRISTMAS CONCERT Saturday 18th December.

All places now taken, but there is a stand-by list. Places are £37 members/£42 guests for coach and good concert seats. Member subsidy is £5. Book via Pauline. We have payed Thursford £1,600 well in advance, so please settle any outstanding payment now.

JANUARY CLUB NIGHT.

Following the success of the last January meeting we will again have a showing of members photo's. Martin will arrange a digital projector for your memory stick or CD media. Slides are possible if notified in advance.

Last year Martin also gave a brief background to his work experiences which you could also have a go at.

To help plan the evening it would be best to let him know in advance if you intend contributing.

REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS

OUR AUGUST VISIT TO THE EAST ANGLIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM at Chappel saw 30 or so of us congregate around *Robert*, a recently loaned industrial steam shunting loco on a plinth outside the entrance. This made a natural focal point for us to meet, prior to our visit. Following a brief introduction and a few words about this loco we were led onto the site and firstly shown inside the signal box, where its role and those of the equipment inside was explained. Moving on – some were distracted by the sight of an apparently discarded enamel sign – we were shown the station buildings and then the footbridge, before crossing to the far platform and restoration area. Here we were split into three groups to facilitate easier access to visit the Restoration Shed and Machine area, take a ride on the Diesel Shunting loco and the Goods shed by separate the guides, including our Chairman Martin, who has an involvement there and arranged our visit. Thank you Martin.

SEPTEMBER CLUB NIGHT Thursday 16th, 8.00pm
Essex at War. Presentation by Doug Killick.

Members who arrived for this opening meeting of our 2010-2011 year were disappointed to learn that our intended speaker had been taken to hospital that very morning. When we heard of this there was not even time to set up an emergency replacement or even notify members, so we had to content ourselves with a general social natter. We do apologise for this, but it was totally out of our hands. As it turned out, the Social club also had a problem/mix-up with our normal room, so we were accommodated in the main lounge along with a few of their social club members. In the (non) event, with having no speaker this was not a problem but could have been otherwise, as their members had every right – and did – carry on their conversations during our announcements. On the plus side it was easier to carry our drinks from the bar! It looks like some work filling in car park pot holes has recently been done.

CHAIRMAN'S DO. Sat 9th October. Old Forge Farm, Hungerdown Lane, Ardleigh.
Report by Steven Clarke.

The weather for the weekend was said to be the last best hot weekend before Christmas. Setting out from Little Tey at 8:30am on the Field Marshall and arriving at Martins at 10:30am it was not that hot! I know that Martin had been working hard all week to get the site ready for the day's event. He did say that he wondered what cars going by would think of seeing a man in a field sweeping the water off the grass! There was a nice collection of tractors already there and later on the Copeman's brought along 4 more tractors by low loader. As the day went on the sun started to shine and more people turn up, a hand full of stationary engines, two cars, one army tank and three steam engines (two of which were in steam). Simon Fox with "Josephine" arriving by road under its own steam in time for lunch!

After having a nice BBQ lunch & beer and looking round the barns, some of the tractor boys wanted to go on a little road run, going on a few back roads then out onto the main road then back to the farm.

This was a nice end of year event and after not having the Kelvedon Mill "do" that Bob use to organize for us this was a great replacement. Thanks must go to Martin, Sarah and family for all they had laid on for us and letting us use their farmyard and I hope that this will be a yearly event with more members coming along.

(Note from Ed. – With the nearby fruit growing and packing industry presumably employing labour from East European countries, if any were about on the lanes I could imagine their reaction on seeing a tank bearing down on them taking part in the Road-Run. It could give a new meaning to the word!

WHEELS BY LAMPLIGHT. Saturday 16th October. At the Ipswich Transport Museum.

Another great evening, with the club well represented. A very good public attendance rewarded all the hard work put in by museum staff in moving several vehicles out to the yard to make room for us, then fetching and erecting the tables for our displays. They deserve recognition for the long hours that are put in for this event. They start moving – or trying to start – things from 7.00am ready for us at 10.00am, then after we have packed up it is at least 10.00pm before they can even start to reverse the morning's procedure and midnight before they can get away. There was good free publicity on the local radio – the presenter is keen on the event and was in attendance with his co-presenter wife.

I have learnt the hard way, to never bring along as much as can be crammed in the car. There is always more time spent packing things neatly beforehand, but afterwards it is a struggle to avoid hanging the last few on the wing mirrors, under your legs and on your lap to get it all on board again in a rush.

There never seems to be time to look at all the other exhibitors displays or museum exhibits as lots of people want to chat, or else a lamp plays up, but always time to cook (heat up) sausage rolls in the paraffin oven.

Over the years, work has progressed on the tram restoration, now virtually completed and looking magnificent.

(Intentionally blank)

TRYING TO WATCH THE STEAM TRAINS.

Steam trains passing through our area. There must be a jinx on steam trains passing our way. The latest case being Oliver Cromwell's replacement 5MT loco on sat 18th September which got no further than Norwich, where a melted bearing was discovered, caused by a thrown cork from an oil reservoir. Passengers returned direct, without going via Lowestoft, rescued by the class 37 Diesel sent from Ilford, which was to be used on the empty train that evening.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are looking to re-stock club sweat shirts and T-shirts soon, but not yet available.

If you have not already done so, would you like to add your email address to club records? This would only be used for notifying any last minute changes to meetings or visits. If so, please notify Ken via email. *ken44austin@yahoo.co.uk* This method removes any possibility of misreading a hand written note. Your address would be held within a group list and so not disclosed to others on any mailing.

The usual half-yearly summary of changes to the Membership Directory is included with this issue.

Membership renewal time will be with us again next month (unless you first joined after last May).

We are pleased to say that no increase in subscription rates will be made again this year.

A tear-off slip is included at the foot of a page for use if renewing by post.

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

FOR SALE

Complete run of Old Glory Magazines from No.1 to current date. £75 ono

Buyer to collect - Sudbury (or tran-ship at club night).

George Bevis

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.

Thur 21 October **Club Night.** Harvest Memories by Ashley Cooper

Sun 24 October Leiston Long Shop Museum, Final Fling Day.

w/e 13,14 Nov Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show

Thur 18 November **Club Night.** Bygones talk & Artifacts, Niel Catchpole

Tues 23 November **Club Visit** (for pre-booked members only) to Mouldons Brewery, Sudbury.

Thu 16 December **Club AGM and Christmas Buffet**

Sat 18 December **CLUB COACH to Thursford** Christmas Concert, book with Pauline Mattin

Thu 20 January **Club Night.** Show us your Picies. Bring yours on a memory stick.

w/e 11,12 June **Aldham Rally**

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The opinions and view expressed in the Restorer are not necessarily those of the committee or editor.

Adverts and dates are accepted in good faith, but no liability can be accepted in any consequence.

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - Martin Stubbins; SECRETARY - Adrian Fox; VICE-CHAIRMAN - John Chiles;

MEMBERSHIP SEC.- Pauline Mattin; TREASURER - Roger Attmere;

RALLY SEC.- Matthew Garwood; RALLY SITE CO-ORDINATOR - Roger Attmere;

NEWSLETTER EDITOR- Ken Austin; DISTRIBUTION - Adam Munson;

LAY MEMBERS -Jim Roots, Dave Culham, Simon Fox.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

A postal renewal slip is provided for use if not renewing at club nights - please return to Membership Secretary, Pauline Mattin, Jesmond, Church Lane, Little Tey, Colchester. CO6 1HX.

This becomes due from 1st November (except if first joining after 1st June this year).

Adult £5.00; Child (under 16 on 1st Nov) £2.50; Joint (husband/wife/partners) £7.50; Family £10.00.

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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.

Optional - Email address (only used to notify any last minute meeting or visit changes)