



WESSEX NEWS

Preserving the marque in Hampshire

October has been another glorious month but the winter is fast approaching. The club run season is over and we only have two more club nights for 2015. I think you will all agree it has been a pretty good year for the club so far, with quite a few new members joining us and joining in with all our events. We have visited some lovely places and had some interesting days out. It all bodes well for next year, lets hope it is full of great visits. On that note, the social committee is responsible for arranging and planning all these events. It has lost a couple of members this year and on his page, the group leader is appealing for new members. A bit of fresh thinking is always welcome.

Its been a busy week here, our friend Clem has been visiting and he and Jim have been doing some jobs on Freda, one involved taking out the gearbox and changing a part on the clutch to a fancy replacement that Jim got from Revingtons. If you need a more technical description you will have to ask them. I know it involved a lot of spanners, grunting and groaning, the occasional swearing and lots of coffee. They were ably assisted one day by Phil Webb who, as I type, is in the garage again with Scarlett his TR3 getting a tune up !!



On a more personal note this edition of Wessex News will be the last but one that I edit. I took on the job two years ago to try and give the then group leader Nigel, a bit of a break. I have really enjoyed doing it and have learned an awful lot as a result. Those of you that know me well, will know I have several other competing interests and its time for me to get more involved with them. I am going to be assisting with a community gardening project in my area, so would like to dedicate myself completely to that. Therefore, this is a request, a new editor is required for the January 2016 edition and onwards. Do you fancy the job? its interesting to say the least and as a newish member when I started, its a great way to get to know all the other members. Please consider it. It doesn't take up much time, you just have to be a little organised to ensure you get it out on the right day. If you want a chat to me before volunteering, give me a ring, our number is in the contact last the end of the newsletter

Lorraine Pullen

A word from our leader

Hi Everybody,

Welcome to the October edition of the Wessex Newsletter.

Well we are certainly into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. I hope you have still managed to get the TR out. I didn't make it to the October run to the Bombay Sapphire gin factory but I understand it was another great run with a good lunch stop over on the way. See Roy's report later and many thanks to him for making the last run of 2015 a memorable one.

Sadly I have to report another member of the social committee standing down. Lorraine Pullen has been the editor of Wessex News for the last two years having picked up the role from Nigel. In that time she has maintained and may I suggest improved on the high standard of publication that we have become used to. Lorraine has a lot of interests, particularly gardening that are taking up a lot of her time. On behalf of the social committee and the Wessex group as a whole I would like to thank her for the great job she has done with the newsletter. If anyone out there interested in joining the social committee please do not hesitate to contact me. Particularly if you would like to pick up the editorship of the newsletter and have the skills, we really do need someone to pick this up.

This month's club night is at the Empress of Blandings and we are lucky to David Thomson from Vintage Tyres coming to talk to us. I hope you can make it.

I have been reading an article that appeared in this month's edition of a well known motoring magazine* concerning vintage Bugatti owners being asked by the DVLA to prove their car's history or lose their registration. Although this is aimed at vintage cars it could be extended to "classic " cars. The DVLA letter states

"Initial investigations have confirmed that some historic vehicles have been built using replica/replacement parts of a mixture of period and new components and have therefore been incorrectly registered. A period manufacture date has been recorded in error and a registration number allocated based on this date. In some cases, individual Vehicle Approval may be required and/or a Q registration may be appropriate. "

Would this affect TRs? Would a complete rebuild from a bag of bits and a registration plate together with a load of new parts require the vehicle to be approved (IVA) by the DVLA at a cost of £450? Are we diluting what is a true reflection of the marquee? The article goes on to state "if you have a totally original vehicle with a cracked cylinder block or rotten chassis. The DVLA has confirmed that as the rules stand you're not allowed to replace these unless you have a spare, original block or chassis to use".

If you have any thoughts on this please email me and we will publish them next month.

Just to reinforce my request for new members of the social committee and a new Newsletter editor please give this some serious thought.

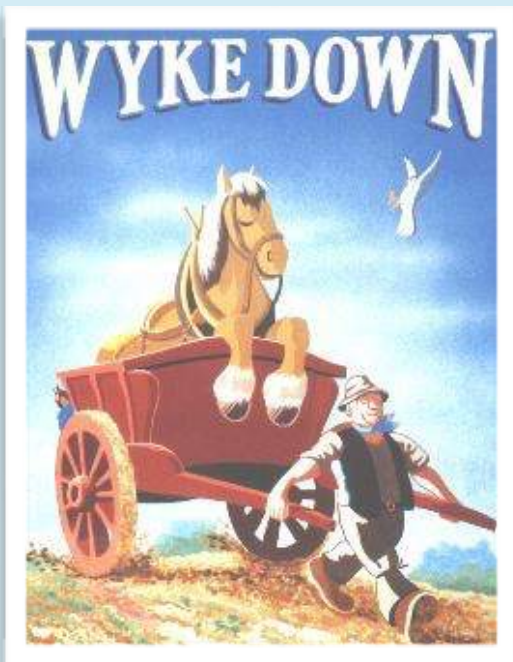
Stuart

* Octane

Wyke Down Farm and Bombay Sapphire Gin

By Roy Clough

Twelve cars, including TR substitutes, departed Ower at 10am October 11th running through Mottisfont, Stockbridge, Fullerton, Wherwell and Hurstbourne Priors to turn left at the watercress beds to Wyke Down Farm.



The farm is home to a herd of beef cattle living amongst a complex of small businesses including a car boot sale ground, pub, restaurant, camp-site and golf range around a H_U_G_E car park. Arriving at the destination the leader was surprised to find that the 'tail-enders' had already got there first!

We had time for a drink at the bar before sitting down to lunch at a long table in a private room for Sunday Lunch. Jeannette and I enjoyed the roast beef (see prev. para.). Having eaten at the Wyke Down on other occasions we knew we were in for something good, and we were not disappointed.

After lunch we found that we had been joined in the car park by a pre-ww2 car club and a group of steam engines in steam, although the huge specimen which performed a three-point turn behind my TR was a little worrying. As we left a group of motor cyclists was arriving: Wyke down seems a popular venue for groups in search of a good lunch.

As some of our members broke away from our group in search of the Vulcan on its last flight, we set off east to the gin factory passing under the railway at New Barn Farm, straight on through Dirty Corner then over the A34 Whitchurch Bypass. Turning right onto the old A34 we descended into Whitchurch to turn left before the town centre roundabout. Up the hill, avoiding the multitude of parked cars, we took the A3400 to Bombay Sapphire in Laverstoke.

In reception at Bombay Sapphire we were each given a little guide book with built-in 'contactless' card. As we walked around the site there were microphones which responded to the guide book by a voice which explained that particular location.





Two stylish glasshouses containing specimens of the plants which are used to flavour Bombay Sapphire are open to visit: Mediterranean and one Tropical. There is also a room to visit displaying different styles of cocktail glasses; hundreds of them!

On entering the factory there is an ante room which has samples of the botanicals which flavour the gin. We were invited to smell, feel and even taste the samples. Oh that liquorice! In our guide book there was space to indicate, by means of a hole punch, our four favourite tasting botanicals. Then our guide took us to see the stills in operation and described the processes.

During the tour guide's explanations he would ask if we had any questions. I could think of none, until I got home.

After the tour we entered the bar. There the barman would make for you a personalised cocktail based on your preferences for the botanicals, shown in your guide book. As I don't d&d I was served with a non-alcoholic drink

and I accepted a goody bag to take home which contained a small bottle of Bombay Sapphire and a bottle of tonic.

Tour over, we took a yellow off the B3400 signposted Micheldever Station which took us to the A303. Then with no convoy to consider it was 'pedal to metal' all the way home.



Triumphant Welsh Classic

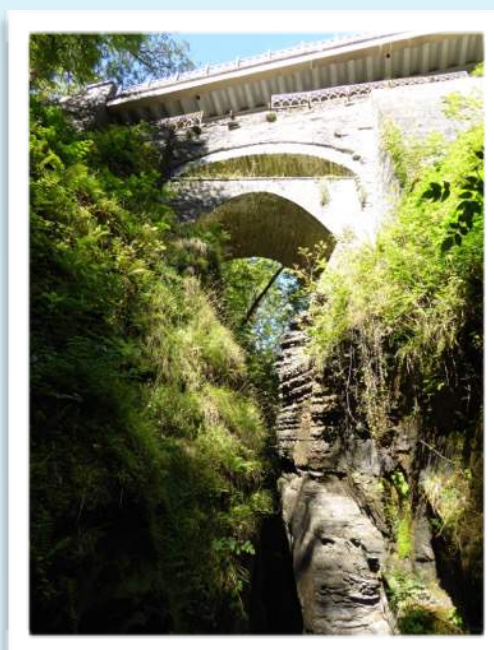
By Dave and Linda Leach

Over the weekend of 19th to 20th September 2015 we attended the Triumphant Welsh Classic tour organised by the Lee Valley group. We drove up to Llandrindod Wells on the Friday to the Metropole Hotel where the tour was based, we were met by the organisers Chris & Sue Glasbey, who presented us with a welcome pack containing our car's rally plate, 2 road books and a page of vouchers for the various coffee, lunch and tea stops that had been arranged on route. In the evening we attended the welcome dinner in the hotel and met the other members of the tour who were all very friendly and we spent the evening chatting.



see the road in front of us. As we climbed out of the valley the first thing we saw clearly were a group of horses in the middle of the road! A few junctions further on we joined a fantastic old rally road which snaked around the hills and eventually came to Devil's Bridge where the first coffee stop was arranged. 40.9 miles travelled.

There was an early start on Saturday morning, 7.30am breakfast and a very foggy 9am start. Cars left at 1 minute intervals, the first interesting views would have been the Elan Valley reservoirs but due to the thick fog we could only just



We had also been provided with entry tickets to the gorge where after a short walk we could view the 3 bridges from below. After an hours rest we set of in a group of 5 though some very narrow roads and into the Snowdonia National Park, passing through Machynlleth, Dollgellau, Aberdovey where we followed the coast for a while before turning inland to our lunch stop at Dolserau Hall. 69 miles travelled. After an excellent lunch of soup and sandwiches we left in small groups back through Machynlleth via a different route and then up over a 515m mountain and down into the Clwedog Valley and onto the Red Kite Café for afternoon tea and Bara Brith cake. 36.4 miles travelled. A short straightforward run on A & B roads back to the Hotel, 30.2 miles travelled, total miles for the day 177.5. We had an excellent evening meal where we exchanged stories of the day.



Day 2 less miles travelled today but more demanding, some quite rough in places including some tight hairpins on the Devil's Staircase, where at one point the gradient was 25%. We stopped for coffee at the Dolaucothi Gold Mines, a National Trust site where we had been given entry tickets and a chance to pan for gold, with some success! 47.3 miles travelled. Then some rather narrow white roads with passing places followed by A & B roads back to the hotel. 38.2 miles travelled, total for the day 85.5. Another excellent lunch at the hotel after which some crews went home but most stayed for another night. After lunch we went

out again to do the first section of day 1 again to view and take photos of the valley and dams which we did not see due to the fog. A couple of others did the same and we all met up back at the hotel for another good evening meal and stories of the days driving.

35 cars entered and came from different parts of the country, the organisation was absolutely faultless and everybody enjoyed themselves. Racetorations of Gainsborough sponsored the event and donations went to the Hope House Children's Hospices.



Post Christmas weekend away 16th -17th January 2016

We still have some rooms available on a first come, first served basis for this event at the Best Western Royal Chase Hotel, Shaftesbury.

www.theroyalchasehotel.co.uk

Rooms are available to book through Sue Chorley at a cost of £80 per person for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for double occupancy and £85 per person for single occupancy. Rooms are also available for the Friday night at the same price.



If you wish to just come for dinner the cost will be £25 per head. A non-refundable deposit of £20 will secure your room and needs to be paid no later than Tuesday 24th November but please remember rooms are limited.



Please see the menu choices for dinner on the Saturday night. Menu choices will be required in advance and need to be sent to Sue no later than 15th December along with your final payment.

For further information and to book your room, please contact Sue directly:

Tel: 023 8029 3492

Email: bschorley@btinternet.com

Cheques to be sent to:

248, Woodlands Rd

Woodlands

Southampton SO40 7GH



Menu

TR Register Wessex Group New Year Away Weekend
16th January 2016

Starters

Cream of Leek and Potato Soup
Served with warm Onion Bread

Field Mushroom

Stuffed with Draycott Blue Cherry Tomatoes and Red Onion served on Crisp Salad

Chicken Liver and Cognac Pate
Served with Crostini and Rocket Salad

Mains

Roast Loin of Local Pork
Served with Sage, Onion and Sausage Meat Stuffing and Roast Potatoes

Chicken Supreme
Served with a Tarragon sauce and new potato cake

Pan fried Salmon
Served with Hollandaise sauce and a new potato cake

Wild Mushroom and Spinach Filo Tart
Served with French Bean and Pine Nut Salad

Desserts

New York Baked Cheese Cake
Served with Strawberry Compote

Apple and Rhubarb Crumble
Served with Custard

Selection of Local Cheeses and Biscuits
Served with Celery and Grapes

£20 deposit to Sue Chorley asap to confirm your place
(cheques payable to Wessex TR Group)
Full balance and menu choices due by 15 December

Auschwitz - A visit into mankind's darkest time

By Phil Webb

Myself and 5 colleagues, who had first met whilst instructors at the Fire Service College Moreton in Marsh 30 years ago, meet up annually to visit places we know our ladies would not be too keen on, such venues include the battlefields of the first World War, the Normandy beaches, Berlin etc. But even the appalling tragedy of the Somme could not prepare us for the horrors of Auschwitz.



Infamous gates to Auschwitz Concentration Camp. ARBEIT
MACHT FREI- Work makes you free

The camp (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site) attracts 1.5m visitors a year and the guides hold nothing back in describing what took place, in this account I have tried to remain faithful to what we were told. Make no mistake - this is a horror story but one we should all read and remember.

On the 1st September 1939 German and Russian forces invaded Poland with the country capitulating on the 27th Sept. Just outside Krakow lay a small Polish Army barracks which after the surrender was commandeered by the Nazis as a death camp with Camp Commandant Rudolf Hoess

appointed in 1940. It, and its two principal satellite camps at Birkenau (lies 3kms away) and Manowitz became the largest death camps of the war responsible for the deaths of up to 6 million people (the records of the usually very administratively precise Nazis often did not record details of those sent from the train directly to the gas chamber, only those selected for work were tattooed (Only Auschwitz tattooed its prisoners), photographed and recorded.

People (people just like you) selected for 'relocation' were forced into railway wagons in such numbers that it was impossible for them to sit down, there were no toilets, water or food and inevitably when they arrived at Auschwitz days later many, particularly the elderly were already dead – they didn't know then it but they had been spared much greater horrors. They had been told to bring one suitcase only, the Nazis reasoning that they would choose to bring their most valuable possessions which could then be stolen, but for many their most valuable possessions were photographs of their loved ones. You can still see rooms stacked with spectacles, suitcases and even human hair



Suitcases of prisoners, they had been told to paint their names on them so that they might be returned – all part of the deception.

On arrival they were unloaded and immediately put through 'selection'. Doctors with a perfunctory wave of their hand would direct young men capable of work one way, the elderly another. The Nazis had no use for young children who couldn't work so women were asked how old their child was, "Is he over 15yrs?" thinking they were protecting their children they would respond "No he is only 13" such an answer sentenced the child to follow the elderly. Mothers would not leave their children so they too went on their last walk (this is the reason average life expectancy for women (2-3 months) was much less than men who lived an average of 6 months). All the time selection was going on, the Camp orchestra played music, the new arrivals looked about them and saw what they had expected to see, a work camp.



The railway entrance to Birkenau Concentration Camp.



Selection in progress, note the Nazi officer pointing the way for the man with the stick – the way to the gas chamber.



Perimeter fence of Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Their horrific journey had left them filthy and those not able to work were told they were going for delousing and a shower- it was again what they expected.

Arriving at the 'delousing chamber' they were told to strip.... their nakedness making them far more compliant to instructions one can only imagine the shame particularly for the women when standing naked. They were herded downstairs towards the 'shower', until now everything had fitted with their expectations.



Interior of gas chamber – many thousands died in this room.

But when up to 2000 people were pushed into a much smaller room than they had undressed in they at last sensed something was wrong. But it was too late, the heavy doors were slammed shut and a trapdoor above them was opened briefly for a gas masked soldier to drop a Zyclon B container into the crowded space below. Hydrogen cyanide gas began to come out of the container and those inside began to scream but then often began to pray or sing their favourite songs – it didn't last long. Within minutes a third of the victims were dead, after 20 minutes the fans

were put on and the doors opened, any

survivors were shot, the gas was heavier than air so those prisoners clearing the chamber often found the strong lying on top of the weak (or small) as they had attempted to escape the choking fumes.

The bodies were removed and women had their hair shaved off and gold teeth removed before cremation. Ashes were put into ponds or the River Vistula. It was the disposal of the bodies that became the Nazis biggest problem, they could kill in thousands, millions (estimates put the figure at 2000 per hour) but how to dispose of the corpses? Mass burning in open pits became their only option.

Prisoners and those working in the gas chambers put their memories in writing and buried them, many have been found with many more, now excavations have ceased, buried forever.

Those selected for work (about 25-30% of arrivals) were shaved and tattooed, issued with striped overalls, a cap and shoes and allocated to a barrack block, their nightmare had begun.

The blocks in Auschwitz were quickly overwhelmed by the numbers arriving and the much larger camp at Birkenau was built – it was 25 times larger than Auschwitz and its 300 barrack blocks covering 25 square miles was hastily erected by prisoners. Recycled building materials, poor quality cement and single tier walls means that many of these have now collapsed, but most still remain and show the dreadful conditions the inmates endured.



Crematoria in Auschwitz

Three tier bunks filled the blocks with the strong taking the upper levels (to avoid the human filth that dripped on those occupying the lower levels) Ridiculous signs such as 'Hats off in barracks' and 'A louse can kill you' added to the madness. Food rations were provided but at levels well below starvation, the strong only survived by taking the food off the weak. Work began with a roll call at 0600hrs and the inmates were then marched off to their labours, in quarries, carrying out road repairs etc. Returning to the camp meant another roll call which often lasted many hours with the prisoners already exhausted from their days labours required to stand to attention – regardless of the weather conditions.

Some young women were offered 'light' work but those accepting found themselves forced into prostitution.

Discipline was very hard with the smallest infraction resulting in a severe beating or even death. Block 11 was the death block where prisoners were sent for 'trial' (trials often lasted less than a couple of minutes) before being either shot on the spot or hustled outside to the yard to the firing wall. Block 25 was allocated to women too sick for work to await their turn in the gas chamber, they were denied food and water whilst they awaited their fate.

But amongst all this death, what I found most shocking was the needless cruelty inflicted on those that couldn't defend themselves.... In a dark airless basement we were shown a small door 18 inches high, 4 or 5 prisoners at a time were put through this door into a brick chamber 2 feet square. They had to stand all night without food or water before being taken out the next morning for work, sometimes returning that night to the same chamber – many died propped upright by their companions. Others were suspended by their wrists tied up behind their backs for days on end. Mass hangings were common for the smallest of misdemeanours.

One of the most infamous characters at Auschwitz was Dr Josef Mengele. He conducted experiments on inmates, particularly twins and the very few that survived carried the horrific scars of his butchery for the rest of their lives.

The camp was liberated by forces of the Soviet Union on the 27th January 1945.

On the 16th April 1947 Camp Commandant Rudolf Hoess was hanged at Auschwitz. He had been captured by the British and at his trial confessed to gassing at least 2,500,000 victims with at least another half a million dying from starvation and disease.

I would like to finish this dreadful story with the story of human kindness that goes some way to outshine the cruelty and suffering.



Camp Commandant Rudolf Hoess was executed here in 1947

It is the story of Maximillian Kolb, Max Kolb was a Franciscan friar who was sent to Auschwitz in May 1941. In July of that year 3 prisoners disappeared and the Deputy Camp Commandant, to dissuade further escapes, ordered 10 men to be starved to death in an underground bunker, one of those chosen Franciszek Gagowniczek, cried out pitifully for his wife and children. Kolb seeing his distress immediately stepped forward and took his place. After two weeks of starvation and dehydration only Kolb remained alive in the cellar. He was given a lethal injection of carbolic acid. In 1982 Pope John Paul II canonized Kolb as a Saint.

Franciszek Gagowniczek, the man whose place Kolb had taken, survived the war.

October Club Night



For our October Club night we are delighted to welcome David Thomson from Vintage tyres as our Guest Speaker.

Vintage Tyres was formed in 1962 by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu to thwart the impending closure of the Dunlop vintage tyre production. Lord Montagu struck a deal to take all the tyres they could manufacture and provide a company to ensure the tyres reached customers as efficiently, speedily and economically as possible. Vintage tyres can now supply all your tyre related needs and all in a fantastic setting.

Vintage tyres already support the TR Register with a discount for members and I understand there may be special deals on offer on the night, so check your tyres! with winter approaching now might be a great time to renew your rubber.

This event will be held at the Empress of Blandings public house on the 27th October at 8pm in the private function room on the first floor. The pub does excellent evening meals so why not get there a little early and enjoy a meal before listening to our speaker.

<http://www.vintagetyres.com>

<http://empressofblandings.co.uk>

<https://goo.gl/maps/BknUx>

Wessex Group Regalia

Tony Alderton has recently become our regalia manager and he has put together a new selection of items that can be purchased to promote your membership of the Wessex group. New members may wish to purchase an item or two and those of you that already have some, may need a replacement. Shown below are the current range of items available bearing the Wessex group logo.



Low profile heavy cotton drill cap front and rear



The favourite T shirt
(female)



Jersey crew neck T shirt



Short sleeve polo shirt



Sweatshirt
Classic 80/20



Full zip fleece

Full details of sizes and colours available and the all important cost of each item, is provided on the order form which can be found at the end of the newsletter. Any other queries about regalia should be made to Tony Alderton

2015/16 Diary of Events

Wessex Group Events

27th Club Night - Presentation by Vintage Tyres of Beaulieu at The Empress of Blandings PH, Romsey Road, Copythorne, SO40 2PF **8pm**
<http://www.vintagetyres.com>

November 2015

24th DVD night at Nondescripts Club **8pm**

January 2016

16th-17th Post Christmas weekend away - The Royal Chase Hotel, Shaftesbury
<http://www.theroyalchasehotel.co.uk>

26th Club Night - Awaits details

February 2016

14th Club Run - Awaits details

All events are covered in full on the Wessex

Tr Register Facebook page and any late updates or cancellations will be published there.

Other events of interest

Weekly events - Classic cars on the Prom too many dates to add them all but various meetings in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Highcliff Castle all over the summer.