

Monthly Newsletter January 2020

Apologies for a very late offering but it's not all my fault. When I retired just over two years ago people suggested to me that I would be free to do whatever I wanted and when I wanted, *Not True*, I seem to be busier now than when I was working, there seems to be a never ending list of jobs that need doing some of which are weather dependent, like if it's not raining do this job, usually raining do another job, probably still out in the rain though. Anyway Happy New Year to all.

Planning and section clearing is well under way for the **Launceston Trial** on February the 9th. The event is open to 2,3 and 4 wheeled vehicles, and I am told also to motorcycles that would not normally be accepted. Nigel has been out tramping the woods in order to decide what sections to use and organise working parties to make them useable. The regs are now out on the club website so get your entry in and don't leave it until they are about to close. As always Mike Wevill will be doing his best to organise marshals and would love to get a call from anyone wishing to volunteer, call him on 01566 784451 or e mail j.wevill@btinternet.com

Now its time for me to pass you over to our club President Robin Moore.

Historical Notes Part 4

As well as the occasional Presidents Evening the annual Presentation of Awards is part of our calendar of events, although the format has changed over the years from formal to informal, from dinner to buffet and from dancing to just socialising. A number of different venues have been used over the years and my earlier recollections is of those at the White Hart. The old coaching Inn in Launceston town centre. After dining Nancy Parsons as compere would organise team games on the dance floor before everything calmed down a little, when live music for dancing was provided by Dave Parish and his band.

Another favourite venue for many years was the historic Lewtrenchard House, former Rectory and home to the Reverend Sabine Baring Gould (1834 – 1924) hymn writer, historian and benefactor. I recall Leslie Major (mentioned in part 3) telling me, that as a young boy he remembered visiting Lewtrenchard Rectory and recalled witnessing the great man himself (S.B.G) standing at a lectern in the large entrance hall of the house, writing his sermons, as was his custom. Leslie Major drew my attention to the lectern which still stood in the same place, - that would have been circa 1960.

To be continued RHTM

Addendum (Another piece of history)

The December issue of this newsletter included a report entitled, Britains I S D F Heroines and the feat of Jane Daniels in cleaning part of the course that defeated the other women competitors, only to find it struck from the results as being too difficult.

I can well imagine how she felt on learning of this, as it reminded me of a similar incident that happened to myself.

For a number of years I competed in the Falcon M.C.'s Guy Fawkes Trial held annually in the Cotswolds. A section called Hedgecombe was often included, a long track climbing through the

woods, the gradient becoming steeper towards the summit. Always deep in leaf mould at that time of year it was difficult to find grip and maintain forward motion, and was a real challenge. One year I was the only competitor to make a clean climb driving my faithful Wolseley Hornet, only to find later that it had been deleted from the results for the same reason as befell Jane Daniels. History repeating itself comes to mind ! R. M.

Robin gave me a timely reminder that our next awards evening is not far off, in fact next month, February the 28th, to be held once again at **Trethorne Leisure Centre** from 7.30pm, buffet and films.

The club's Centenary Celebrations are starting to come together with a wide variety of different events , most of these will be in the latter part of the year and really do promise to be worth attending, I can't give away too many secrets yet but I think we really do have the makings of something worthwhile, and worthy of our status as Cornwall's Oldest Motor Club. So what better time to remind you to pay your subscriptions☺ If you can't be bothered to write out a cheque go to www.lncmc.co.uk and go to the on line entry section and click application form.

Last month I mentioned that i was now in the running in stages of the newly rebuilt engine in the Dellow, all in preparation for the forthcoming MCC Exeter Trial. My new navigator Richard had not ridden in the Dellow so a week before the trial we went out for a test run, fifteen miles into it there was an un welcome rattle from the engine, not wishing to do any damage we immediately turned around and limped home, by the time we got back the rattle had turned into a full scale knock, not happy. Within a few days I had fitted the old standby engine, rattly but no worse than when I had taken it out a few months ago, quick test and yep it'll do.

So on Wednesday Richard and I set off for test run number two, everything seems ok so after some forty miles we turn for home, we stop at a crossroads, pull away and there is a loud noise from the back axle, limp home again, this is now getting a little annoying to put it mildly. Its two days before the trial and the next day I am fully booked up with no prospect of garage time. Disappointed I volunteer us both to marshal at Pepperdon.

Friday morning the day of the trial I decide to strip the axle, I find the two planet gears in the differential very short of teeth, at this short a notice finding a dentist skilled enough to put some teeth on is out of the question, and probably out of my price bracket, dentist's don't come cheap. I dig out an old axle in the shed, quickly strip it and hey presto two planet gears. Rebuild and fit the axle and by 6.00pm the car is up and running, but I'm shattered. A quick evening test drive and decreed fit again. (Car not me) Saturday 7.00am collect Richard and off to Pepperdon, marshalling stint done by late morning so we set off with Mike Wevill in convoy for Simms, after an obligatory pasty at the village hall it's down to watch the fun and chat to several of the LNCMC club members helping out on the hill.

Well the weekend didn't quite turn out as planned, the car got us home again without fault, and we were at least able to see some sport even if we weren't taking part, there's always next year, philosophic . ☺

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