

FUN!

The usual spring A to Z truck run in April meant all motors out and wandering thro’ Somerset, Wiltshire, beautiful countryside & villages, after 90 miles successfully back to base.

To ‘War in the Cotswolds’ – now thats a new one. At Toddington in Gloucester on the Worcester to Gloucester railway was a fantastic week end with so much enthusiasm and work (with over half the folk



80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dont forget to join us to celebrate 80years! BBQ & Refreshments 5-9 (8th Sept)

Spotted. An undercover agent!



Montgomery - King George III



in 1940 costume) steam trains running between stations, re-enacting different facets of the war from air raids (and everyone going for cover) to various ladies singing as Vera Lynn, dozens of displays of WWII vehicles & even the ‘treats’ of rationing in the Womens Institute tent, to a church service on the Sunday at which a very life like King George and Montgomery were in attendance. A long way at 30 mph in the Matador but worth it. Future trips to Weymouth, Yeovilton with several smaller displays and road runs in between so you might see us about.



So that brings us to the Company celebrations this year of 80 years (of hard labour). We will have to celebrate it and cannot let the moment pass, so looking towards September for an evening bash but how to entertain you that is the burning question and that continues to occupy our minds at the moment.

You may have notice several new faces around the company so I need to bring you up to date. You might occasionally see Tony Bolton as he slips in and away (being a most valuable contact to help you find the vehicle you need but haven’t the time or inclination to try to locate) from cheap to expensive cars, vans and 4 x 4 he has been a godsend to our sales effort. On the other hand, Chris Dann our loyal mechanic and information centre on old motors has slipped into retirement having done 10 years hard labour for us. I am not sure his life will be any easier as his wife is a prison officer so he will undoubtedly have to toe the line! We were pleased to offer them tickets for a longed for steam railway

As I have now completed 50 years of my apprenticeship with the company I thought this text was most appropriate!

“Then I realised that it is good and proper for a man to eat, drink and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given him – for this is his lot. However, when God gives any man wealth & possessions & enables him to enjoy them to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.”

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

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excursion and if we can get our act together will be able to be on the platform to wave to them as they pass!!

I have previously introduced two of our apprentices to you Clayton and Ryan - well time races and they both qualified some time ago. In between Charlie joined our ranks from a car background but was pushed down the commercial vehicle route as he was just made for that job! This summer he also comes out of his apprenticeship so we thought we should take another - so enter Kieran. I must say after many years of heartbreak and despair with many youngsters the last few years has been a breath of fresh air to find young people who are keen to work, get to work on time, and polite to customers – how lucky are we? So there is hope for the future!

Another new ‘boy’ on the block is Barrie Worrell (he of NFU Insurance fame of many years) known to many and a life time in the agriculture and motor trades. We have great hopes of his skills being used on our commercial sections.

Time to wrap this missive up Mes Amis. I think I shall adopt a new company policy – can’t do much about what the future holds – so one day at this time; make the most of what we have, try to enjoy the day and let tomorrow take care of itself.

Take care, we will try to remain your local family motor men and trust that should you use us you will think you have been treated well and your pocket still has a lining!

Jordan. W. Fry



WEST END GARAGE (BRUTON) LTD
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Chris Dann's leaving lunch with the rest of the staff.

THE ULTIMATE IN GREEN TRANSPORT must be the horse drawn canal barge – beautifully quiet and so serene but not as fast as our diesel powered narrow boat; having said that, speed is not one of the senses you often achieve on the Llangollen canal, too many boats/people trying to use this incredibly narrow and popular canal.

It's all Tommy Telford's fault building the amazing Pontcysyllte Aqueduct 126 feet above the River Dee. His concept of using a cast iron trough perched along a row of hollow stone piers was mind blowing and still is today as you float over with nothing but a sheer drop on one side and a narrow tow path on the other. ‘Dobbin’ obviously had a better head for heights than Moi! (please don’t tell Health and Safety or it will have to be shut!). As if there was ever any doubt that women have now totally dominated the world, I have now witnessed not one but 4 all female crews on the canals in North Wales – Come on chaps we need more “Eddie the Eagles!”. So, its back on the cut strapped to the tiller.

80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BBQ AND CELEBRATING
5pm - 9pm, Thursday 8th Sept

My name is

Email: stacey@westendgaragebruton.com

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Please join us to celebrate 80 years with a BBQ and refreshments!



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Facing lashing rain and fierce winds but we nautical types battle on – bit like a floating motor home but more of a gin-palace (as no drink and drive worries or speed camera to worry about). Ever more popular with the Australians and Americans I fear there are more boats than canals – Hey, best to enjoy it while we can!

Not getting carried away with all the Fun Quota I shall concentrate on the work ethic first – so “Waz been doing since Christmas young un?” (A term of endearment!) I always bang on about the feast to famine but we have been firing on all cylinders. The car side has kept up – hopefully gaining more customers than Father Time or Mother Nature reduces! Interesting change in the body shop as we have enjoyed an unprecedented volume of new trucks wanting to be painted, as well as older ones requiring a livery change, so whilst never really setting out to go back into truck painting we are half way there already. Knocks, bangs and few seriously damaged trucks have helped to keep us flat out plus the odd continual use of the Bee Line chassis jig. Powder tanks have really pushed their way to the fore with resurgences from



Painters have to move at the speed of light.

petrol tankers, but they are not as busy as they used to be; apparently you are not buying as much fuel, maybe because modern motors do more to the gallon or you are just not doing the miles - so saving the planet has its consequences!

Other interesting projects are a 1927 MG ‘C’ type built for racing and brought back from the States and requested to be at Buckingham Palace to commemorate 90 years of Her Majesty’s life (forgot to mention why its with us – a repaint; darling and get a move on!) For the oldies among you it sounds great being built with a super charger and the evocative smell of Castol ‘R’. Obviously in those days racing invoked all the senses, anyway it is a joy to behold. However, I doubt Her Majesty will be racing around in it!



Fit for the queen!

80 years ago... 1936-2016

Father & Mother took over the garage at the West End of Bruton (now the Chinese takeaway) living behind the shop and struggled through the war, running a taxi business, maintaining cattle trucks and working for the Ministry of Agriculture Department (ploughing hitherto untouched ground some in the Brewham/Witham area but also on the Mendip's). A thrashing outfit kept them exhausted through the harvest. Stocking and selling Agricultural equipment, milking machine equipment was just part of the business which included wiring outlying farms for electric (usually from generators). Loads of ambition, constant expansion meant cash was always short, but with two hungry boys to feed, poor chap never stopped. Acquiring the Morris franchise and later the MG plus Austin. Purchasing High Street Garage, and building new filling stations at West End and Frome Road. Plus Creech Motors at Evercreech. After a lifetime with British Leyland he advised us boys to take the Peugeot franchise at Bruton. The history occupies many drawers full of photos, and memorabilia and I ought to sit down and compile as a snapshot documentary of a small town Motor Dealer, if only for the grandchildren, should they ever be interested.

So, toward the future (whatever that might hold), first let us celebrate the past & get you to put Thursday 8th September in your diary from 5.00pm – 9.00pm for our 80th Anniversary Celebration. Refreshments will be waiting for you – we look forward to seeing you!



Everyone's a winner!

Interesting but of another era is the refurbishment of a Volvo P180 (or to most of you the car that The Saint, Roger Moore drove) has come over from Ireland “on holiday” so must get a wiggle on’ as holidays are notoriously short and the owner will soon be after his prized possession.

You may have noticed how much we enjoy having big and green machines around us at work. I get quite bereft when they disappear but fortunately we have enjoyed a flood – actually a squadron of HET's (Heavy Equipment Transporters). Quite my favourite truck they are always welcome & somehow we always manage to find enough room to squeeze in another one, alongside their little brother the Oshkosh fuel tankers – life would be empty without them!

With all the other trucks from artics to horse boxes for MOT, servicing and repairs we have been quite challenged. With the relatively recent take-over of military repair establishments by Babcock Defence we have seen more of the yellow refuelling fleet so now its big, green and yellow!

Politics seem to be in our daily lives – was it ever thus? Just had one in for repair that came to us from the Falklands

Not bad for 50-60 year old motors!



about 7 years ago – welcome back! What comes around goes around. Back to the centre of the universe!

As a nation we cannot seem to sell off/give away everything we own fast enough and I am left constantly wondering what will be left for our grandchildren? I do struggle to find true British companies.

I never ceased to be amazed by what our fore-fathers managed to achieve, with all their steam power and incredible projects and the ‘we can do anything’

attitude, I feel ashamed of our lack of enthusiasm and drive (don't dare to mention the A303, the steel industry or Hinkley Point!) Have the inmates taken over the Asylum or is it just me??

Pit stop! Heart Transplant!



Transplants taxes the vertically challenged!

At our Austin Healey Gala Dinner we were impressed to hear more about ‘Bloodhound’ and the aim to travel on land at 1000mph and it's all British! It would be nice to keep some achievements in the UK.

Having rallied to Arundel, 65 Healey's made a stirring sight and sound of a quintessential English sports car. Whilst over 50-60 years old they have a beauty of their own and are a credit to the one man who made it happen; Donald Healey – what a legacy to leave behind. I was thrilled to see a younger element at this year's Rally and particularly as the whole event was organised and run by two young families – should help to get the average age down from all us oldies!

PROJECTS

I am afraid that despite many peoples interest in our Mini pick up we have not advanced owing to our frantically busy body shop - but it is next in the master plan and I promise to keep you up to speed. The rebuild of the Mark 2 Jaguar (Inspector Morse) is coming on and if we can find the time to paint it, it may be on the road this year!



Project 'J' - a Jaguar for the future??

The time and energy has been focused on “The Gun” and as mentioned in the previous newsletter it is no small machine gun but a 5.5” Howitzer, weighing in just over 6 tons it is a bit of a beast. Precision built in Birmingham in 1943 it is the perfect match for our AEC Gun Tractor of the same year. The precision build has been the problem as left to the elements the accurate tolerances do not forgive our old enemy - RUST. Everything was solid, not the ordinary seized where by oxy-acetylene and a sledge hammer will loosen up, but nothing will shift it, so drilling out of the moving parts being the only answer – and then machine new bits. Life was never meant to be easy! (And jolly well isn't).

Matador & gun having its barrel fitted.



Against the odds we are gaining and whilst it will never fire again (much to my son's relief) it will regain most of its moving parts and we will have to imagine throwing a shell 15 miles to an unsuspecting and surprised bad debtor!! Again what engineers – electric brakes in 1943 what brilliance. Apologies in advance but as we cannot get out of Bruton without going uphill and you might find yourself behind a very slow moving vehicle, but fear not we do not intend to drive too far!!

Whilst thinking politics, by the time you receive this we shall have decided on our referendum and sealed our future for better or worse.

I feel that probably the most important vote of our life time has not been given the deference it deserves but appears to be almost trivialised by small arguments and no one came forward for a vision for our country let alone the stature to carry it out.

We need another Alfred the Great – he was not wrong in 872 AD when he unified the Country by demanding one language, one religion and education for all.

It's my poor grandchildren I feel sorry for – again!