

" TRANSPORT OF DELIGHT "

FESTIVAL UPDATE

News bulletin on the Wessex Festival of Transport 2007: Our Running Day & Rally on Sunday 8th July is to be sponsored by Ringwood Town Council this year and it will become part of the weeklong Ringwood Festival - You can't get better than the price of two Festival's for one!

There or thereabouts Sunday 137: Although planning of this is in the early stages (as at March 2007), we have confirmed an hourly free Town Centre service from Avon Heath via Poulner (Wells Garage), Junior School, Gorley Road, White Hart Inn, Eastfield Lane, Elm Tree Inn, Crow, Moortown Lane, Christchurch Road and the Market Place. It was suggested that this service could perhaps take in stops at the Ringwood Town & Country Experience, In-Excess, and Liberty's Raptor & Reptile Centre although this is not confirmed. Buses on this service may or may not be Red Wilts & Dorset buses and they may or may not have low/very high steps!



The Ringwood Festival Committee suggested and would like us to accept their offer of certificates to be given to Wessex entrants and even trophies for the best class of vehicle. We are likely to gratefully accept this-we have not had sufficient funds in recent times to do so. However, Mike preferred to have plaques as opposed to trophies & certificates as he felt that all entrants make a great effort to attend the Running Day with their pride & joy, regardless of their vehicle condition - Mike would bring plaque costing and numbers to the next committee meeting. Battle of the Bands is another Festival event to take place on Sunday in Ringwood, on the Bickerley Green-very near to the Town Centre with the disused Castleman's Corkscrew railway line and river bridges located behind. The committee was informed that there were many local youngsters around who had formed bands and were eager to perform in public-this event would be advertised as a Music Festival.

Centre Spectacle: Mike informed the Committee that the Society would run a parade of motor vehicles through the town from approximately 4.00pm.



Give your blessing: Other news is that Wilts & Dorset Bus Co will sponsor & supply us with vehicles (if volunteer drivers are available-Robbie's already said "Yes" again) so that we can operate again; Bournemouth Council will allow us to enter Bournemouth Interchange, New Forest District Council will permit us to enter Moors Valley Country Park, and we are looking into a revision of the 13A route to Holmsley. A new more attractive route via Christchurch Road, Moortown Lane and Crow Hill (past the railway level crossing cottage) into Burley Street is being considered and a shorter layover at Holmsley. From looking at some of last

year's photographs, it was seen that the two Royal Blues were parked laying-over in the Burley Coach Park - why wasn't this thought of before! Enquiries are to be made with the New Forest District Council for possible free use of the coach park.

Laid Off: Hants & Dorset Motor Services Ltd Ticket Machines: a limited number of these redundant (but working) machines were cleared out from the W&D Ashley Road, Parkstone travel office when it closed recently, and donated to the Wessex Transport Society. A number of these machines are selling via EBay and privately, specifically to bring in Festival funds. These funds are required for expensive public liability insurance for Avon Heath Country Park and also preserved vehicle donations. It has been interesting that one machine has been returned to its Conductor who worked with H&D in the 1960's, and another will shortly be fitted to back onto a preserved H&D Bristol RE! Articles to these with pictures will be hopefully be submitted to the bi-monthly magazine. If any Wessex member is interested in obtaining a Mark 1 or Mark 2 version please see the Bi-Monthly Review for further details. Please note they do not come with conductors' handles (OMO type), although we know they can be found at bus rallies & shows.

PSV Running Vehicle Entrants (bus & coach owners): we would request your forms returned please, as soon as possible so we can properly organise a program & schedule for you. We realise that some owners have commitments and can only know nearer a few days to the event-if this is the case we would ask you to sign the form, 'ACT AS SPARE'. We would not enter you into the program, as we wouldn't wish to disappoint visitors but there will certainly be a trip to do! We would also like forms returned as it is a legal requirement and that we are acting in a professional manner if spot-checked by the Department of Transport - Thanks, Paul Donald, Running Vehicle Coordinator.