

Croxley Green Scammell Rally and Reunion

by Mike Thomas

The weekend of September 21st and 22nd saw our second annual rally and ex-employee reunion at Croxley Green. Once again, we were positioned next to Carters' Steam Fair who had seven Scammells, nicely laid out in an arc at the far side of the fair from our display.



Unfortunately, we had only 16 Scammells this year, a little down on last year as some who had planned to come couldn't make it and, at the last minute, the Mechanical Horse Club, who had promised their display stand and 3 or 4 vehicles, let us down. However, it was a most respectable collection and those there had a



brilliant weekend! As well as 11 lorries which had been the previous year, I was delighted that the Scammell S26 racing truck made an appearance. It arrived on its transporter, freshly sprayed back into the original Scammell racing team colours. It looked slightly plain until the crew set about

adding the transfers and it was ready for its début! It was parked next to recent

Member Bob Pott's Showtrac look-a-like resplendent in a livery very similar to Carters' and named the "Flying Machine", see colour spread. Other newcomers to Croxley were Graham Germany and Tina with their Explorer and



living van, Parry Davis all the way from Shropshire with his Highwayman and Joe Freer with his 65 ton Highwayman which came loaded onto Dave Stretton's freshly painted Handyman and trailer.

Cassie McIntyre, who was there with her family, the Highwayman and living van amused herself by constructing a model from K'Nex. It is posed on the cycle wing of Graham Germany's Explorer, on which it is modelled. The ramp clearly shows the articulation on the front axle - a very pleasing little model!

Perhaps the highlight for many was the ex-employees' reunion which Managing Director, Vic Wilkes had promoted in the January issue. The result was a staggering turnout of between 50 and 60, of whom around 40 are pictured below.



There were lots of reunions with many people meeting for the first time in 20 years. Amongst the longest journeys made were by Geoff Clark who came by motorcycle from Harrogate and Nigel Allen from Bridgnorth in Shropshire.



One particular reunion was newly joined Member David White, who had written to me after seeing an article by Alan Jackson in the first Newsletter he received. They had been school pals and hadn't seen each other for some 50 years! David travelled from Clacton-on-Sea. They pose here in front of Dave Walker's R6, in the back of which they went on the road run to Tolpits Lane!

Later on the Saturday afternoon, eleven lorries set off for the second annual road run to Tolpits Lane. Having arrived, we parked up for a photo shoot, which attracted considerable interest from several passersby.





Graham Germany and Tina disappeared to check out the housing estate where the factory once stood. Graham is pictured in Explorer Drive, one of several streets named after Scammell models.

We rounded Saturday off with a barbecue. On the Sunday, the Watford and District Classic Vehicle Club (WDCVC) held their rally with a huge turnout of cars. Some ex-employees turned up thinking that was the day for the reunion and a few lorries repeated the run to Tolpits Lane. I'd like to thank Register Member Peter Batchelor and Kevin France of the WDCVC for inviting

us back and for all their help with the road run.

Verdict? A brilliant weekend - a fitting commemoration of the closure of the factory 20 years ago and a great celebration of the Register's 25th anniversary.

I'll leave the last word to Member Vic Wilkes who was MD at the time of the closure and wrote to me as follows.

"I expect the weather helped but what a turnout of ex-employees at Carters' Fair on 21st September in Croxley. Added to which there were many old Scammell vehicles in great condition. Not only did I meet those who left in 1988 on the closure but a number who had left many years previously. I had remembered them as young men and women and now they returned as "60 something" retirees! More than one person said to me "I wonder how many companies 20 years after closing could get 50 or 60 ex-employees to return for a get together?" Surely a commendation of camaraderie and the company loyalty.

Thank you all for coming. Perhaps in September 2009 we can even beat this number when Carters and the Scammell Register return to Croxley Green. My thanks also to the Scammell Register for providing the opportunity for us all to meet. As they say "keep trucking and keep remembering the name and history of Scammell".

Scammell
"The Legend Lives On"

Vic Wilkes

