

## Date for the diary – October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

An event to commemorate stage rallying from the 1970s visits Wiscombe hillclimb on October 20<sup>th</sup>, from about 10:45am. It is called the Lombard Rally Bath.

Lombard sponsored the UK round of the WRC for many years in the 1970s, and it was known as the Lombard RAC Rally long after they ceased sponsorship. It is now of course known as Wales Rally GB.

Bath was the start for the 1976 event, and Woolbridge was marshalling the Wareham Forest stage on that event. It was after the end of the long hot summer of '76 and so wet that the stage had to be abandoned after cars became stuck. Wiscombe (run down the hillclimb and up through Whitmoor Drive) followed, although this time they enter via Whitmoor Drive and go up the hillclimb. It is a 'touring assembly' so there will be no timing or competition, but show a rally driver a start line .....

Many names and cars from the period are entered – Stig Blomqvist (Grp B Audi Quattro), David Llewellyn (ex-Tony Pond Metro 6R4), Jimmy McRae/Ian Grindrod (Opel Manta 400), Dessie McCartney (Fiesta), Tony Fowkes/Nicky Porter (Mercedes 450SLC), Louise Aitken Walker (Lotus Sunbeam), etc., etc. Woolbridge is represented by Adam Marsden (Audi Quattro) and Rex Ireland (Escort RS2000).

The cars also include a Lancia 037, Delta Integrale, Alpine Renaults, TR7 V8s, Chevette HS, ex-works Escorts & Toyota Celicas and Lancia Stratos replicas. The full entry list can be seen at <http://lombardrallybath.co.uk/entry-list/> and details of Wiscombe including photos at <http://lombardrallybath.co.uk/wiscombe-park-where-to-watch-on-october-20th/>

Entry is just £5, and a souvenir programme is £5. Normal Wiscombe catering, commentary, etc. Get there early as rally cars start leaving the venue from 11:00am.