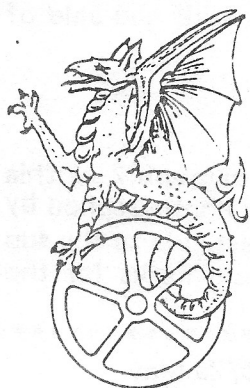


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

JULY 1986

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***** ANNUAL RALLY, MONKTON FARLEIGH MINE - 14/15 June

Many rally write-ups start with weather reports, and this one is no exception, as up to this particular weekend the amount of blue sky wasn't enough to make a pair of sailors trousers, as the saying goes, but this weekend there was enough to kit out the whole navy and by Sunday afternoon it got so hot I had to retreat to the Mine cafe for some shade and watch the rest of the exhibitors go pinker and pinker, but having said that, I also think the fine weather played a great part in the success of the rally.

We had a superb turn out of engines to cater for all enthusiasts tastes and the standard of restoration get better every year, and can only reflect the amount of hard work and patience that owners shower on their machinery, even if a certain member turns his engine off and turns the number around during the judging period!!!

I hope everyone was happy with the site your Committee chose after looking at several, and finally deciding on the Mine with its attraction of a 'secret underground city', the largest known underground ammunition dump in the world, where we were able to offer our members and families half price tickets for a guided tour of the mine, and over 200 tickets were sold.

For the first time we invited entries from cars, motor-bikes, tractors and commercials, and what a splendid selection entered our show. Although visiting members of the public were somewhat lacking, this seemed to be the only complaint; I hope everyone enjoyed the weekend. The Saturday evening Bar-b-que was a great success and well supported with approximately 150 people, which kept the ladies of the Committee hard pressed all night keeping up with the demand for food, and how nice to have our guest Chef, Tony Jones, along with his expert touch for turning out beefburgers and sausages, nearly 280, were sold. Brian Box supplied the bar, and kept all those thirsty people happy, whilst our evening entertainment was supplied by Al Fresco with his jokes and music which went down very well and ended up with 'dancing on the tarmac' for the last hour. At half time we had our usual raffle with numerous prizes, many of which were donated, and thanks to Brian, Audrey and Chris for selling tickets during the midday sun and to Herb for his efforts in the evening. Our Club stall did a very good trade on both days, and thanks to all the people for their generous donations of articles to sell. Hopefully, our paying stall holders did as well as us; one of them told me he had taken more money at our rally than he had the previous week at a rally that had a several thousand gate.

Once again we supplied each exhibitor with an information card to display in front of their engine, and apparently they also make good gaskets, so they had their uses at the end of the day.

At 3.00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon our President, Tom Randall, made the presentation to the award winners, which are as follows:- best Horizontal Engine, Mr. Alan Barrett with his 5 hp 1925 Challenge; best Vertical Engine, Mr. Brian Verrall with his 1920 3 hp Glasgow; Junior Shield for best Junior Engine, J. Webber with a 1960 Lister D; best Working Engine (Committee Cup. J.A. Marlow's 3½ hp Lister 'A' type driving a Bamford No.1 Corn Mill; best Visitors Engine went to Mr. Les Aldridge with his 1920 3 hp Glasgow.

Rosettes were given to the following:- best Car, D. Maybee with his 1935 18 h.p. Austin Chalfont. This was a very difficult task for the Committee to judge as all the cars were superbly restored. The tractor chosen was a 1942 Fordson Standard owned by Mr. Brian Lovell. Best Motor Cycle, D.D. Ackerman with a 1949 Sunbeam S8, and last but by no means least, best Steam Vehicle went to Mr. Ron Torr with his 4½ inch scale model, Marshall Traction Engine.

Tom congratulated the award winners and thanked everyone for supporting the rally. For my part, to round up this report, I must thank everyone who helped to make this rally so enjoyable by giving up part of their weekend to assist with the hard work and effort that is required to put on a rally. Also

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to Malcolm Fleet for the loan of his flat-bed lorry for the Bar-b-que to put Al Fresco and his equipment on, and thanks to all members and friends who donated articles for the Club stall and prizes for the raffle.

PS. The Treasurer tells me that the rally paid for itself this year and although we did not make a profit, we broke even; largely due to the income from the Raffle, Bar-b-que, Club Stall and sale of Mine tickets.

Robin Lambert

(For the benefit of those members wondering whose engine it was mentioned in paragraph 2 of this article, well I'm told it was mine! Actually it chose to splutter to a stop whilst being photographed by a visitor for the Midlands; this seemed to be an admirable opportunity to turn its best side to the sun for photographic purposes, followed by a quick walkabout while it was stopped. Full marks for the gasket material but I'm still waiting to use the brass shim....! Ed.).

MARKET LAVINGTON AND EASTERTON SPRING FAYRE - Spring Bank Holiday, 25/26 May

Will it rain again? Will someone buy our Petter Twin? Hope so as we don't have room in our new house or garage and soon we shall be moved...or maybe!

We arrived late at Lavington Football Field. I had overslept and had not prepared the sandwiches the night before. Entries included little Petters, bigger Petters, Wisconsin, Listers, Ruston Hornsby, Villiers, Witte and many more. Also there seemed to be footballers galore; they kept Chris busy on Sunday retrieving the ball so by Monday he decided it was 'boring'!

There were numerous stalls - and a lovely duck! We heard offers of £1 and even £4 but at the end of the rally the duck was still waddling around; in and out of Blackstones, boys, balls and bicycles, ignoring the dogs and appearing totally unimpressed with anything at all. Kooky the Clown also brought his duck along, a pink and silver affair which attacked Chris when he described its legs as 'skipping rope'. 'No wonder you haven't got a wife' said Kooky 'saying things like that'.

The sun appeared and the footballers played on.... and on. The donkey gave rides and the marquee was well attended yet the crowds did not appear. Maybe they did whilst Murphy, Jill and I went walkies; returning armed with dandelions for our rabbits and the school guinea-pig. Dave, Andy, Bod and Eric disappeared in the car to ogle in awe at John Kyte's 'big-un', a Brush engine which is the latest acquisition.

No it did not rain so at least I can say that I am one of the fortunate few who has attended Market Lavington Rally in the dry!....and no one bought our Petter either.

Shirley Gale

SELWOOD PRESERVATION SOCIETY RALLY, Longleat - 31 May/1 June

We had agreed to meet Phil Harris and Ian Skuse at the entrance to Longleat so Dave went on with the engine on the truck and I went off to get the caravan. They had all met up alright and made their way to the site so when I arrived at the agreed rendezvous no-one was there; however, I made my way down to the House seeing nobody about at the usual rally site at the bottom of the hill.

There was a caravan rally on the right-hand side so I thought that something had gone wrong and the dates had been muddled up! Nevertheless, on looking ahead through the trees I saw Dave with the truck. He had been on the phone to see what had delayed me, so when I pulled onto the field I was asked 'Werst thee bin then. Dids't get losted?'. I replied 'I were a bit delayed you'.

It was nice to see Wessex Members present, on the Friday evening we saw Brian Munt walking around and on the Saturday evening we had a bit of a walk-about ourselves but couldn't see Brian's engine anywhere. The smoke from our Petter drifted away down the field towards the House and right at the end of it, there was Brian with his Punch & Judy Show. Petter smoke always finds him out! Also in attendance were tractors, cars and trade standing, including 'Farmer John' with his threshing machine. On the Sunday someone else got the fumes from the Petter but I booked your place Robin, doing the same job as last year at our own Rally. One good thing about it Marg and Jackie, the smoke gave you a good 'tan'.

Thanks once again to Bill Foster and his crew for a good rally - and to Brian for entertaining the children and some of the older ones too!

Gerry Hoddinott & Dave Ball

THE EVENING MONTHLY MEETING: Guess the Object - June 30th

Here we are again, the end of June and the rally season slipping by. Doesn't the time go fast, I must be getting old.

At about 7.30 p.m. Club members started to arrive at the Old Down Inn, some creeping in with boxes and bags of all sizes; not allowing other members to see what they had brought. Mr. 'Punch' Munt was 'MC' for the evening and there was much whispering in his ear as to what the various containers held

The British Museum would have been very pleased to have had many of the items, some of which were quite valuable and included the following:- Lambs tail docking rings, flat belting joiner, horse tail docker, chain saw piston jammer, plastic shim cutter, crimper, eye-lash curler, polyphon disc, inhaler and a Somerset miner's coal drill. A bottle of clear oily liquid was eventually revealed to be some of Brian sweat lost in the Punch & Judy Booth on the previous hot Saturday at Bath Steam Fair, (where we hear that the normally urbane Terry Heath was seen dancing to the small hours to some 'sixties' rock 'n' roll music!) whilst Brian described one object as a 'six-sided hexagon'....! Phil Harris' eyes seemed to water as the description of the candle wick trimmer, he said his wick was OK and Audrey nodded in agreement!...whilst a bread mould was said to be a fake as mould on bread is normally green! What an astute lot our members are!

All in all, Brian showed 40 items, too numerous to list them all but just to whet your appetite here are a few more:- candle holder for miner's cloth cap, duck basket, ARP rattle, brass button stick, teat enlarger (for milking machine...!), lifeboat flare, sweet-pea counter, GWR gas key, joss-stick holder, top of lightening conductor, pot hook, saw-set, and a curly hook-shaped cast iron device which only Don Rogers recognised - as a support for a greenhouse heating pipe.

Yes, 46 wonderful items made a very enjoyable evening with a little humour thrown in from Mr. Punch (Professor) Munt alias the Sausage Machine Man. The eventual winner was Christine Rogers with 26 correct items and she won a bottle of something very cheering. Well done Chris and well done and thank you to the members who took the time and trouble to sort out and bring or send the items that made the evening possible.

Bob (I only had 14 correct) Hallam

OVERHEARD on the Rallyfield at Bath Festival of Steam, 29th June....member's mother to member's mother-in-law....'They must be soft in the head to lug all that stuff about....'

CLUB CALENDAR

Aug.18th 'Members Evening. This is a chance for YOU to bring along any slides, photos, small engines or parts to show to the rest of the Club. Most members can be seen carrying a camera at rallies, now show us your results. The ones we really like are those candid shots of our members in funny situations.

Sept.29th. This is a repeat of a very humorous talk by Terry Sanger who was once sales director of Villiers Engines, International racing driver for the Ford Motor Co., and motorcycle racer - apart from many, many other ventures. Try not to miss this one, even cancel your holiday.

Oct.11th. Annual Coach outing, this time by double-decker bus to the Exeter Maritime Museum. Booking forms will be with the August Newsletter and the price will be £4 for each person irrespective of age, which includes the price of admission to the Museum (over £2 so it is still good value). 70 Seats only so when the form appears don't delay. The bus is scheduled to depart from the Badgerline Kensington Bus Depot, in London Road, Bath at 7.30 a.m. and will travel via Peasedown, Radstock and the Old Down Inn to Exeter via the A38 and M5. If you live on the route, tell us when you hand in your forms with your advanced payment and we can easily arrange for the bus to pick you up at the place of your choice. We stop at Taunton Deane Services for refreshments, etc. to break the journey. The return journey will leave Exeter at 6 p.m. and we have booked into the 'Cat & Fiddle' along the way for food and drinks. There will be varied menus and bar meals to suit all tastes; we leave there at 8 p.m. for home.

Due to the demand and limitations as to number of seats on the bus we are afraid that it will have to be booked on a 'first come, first served' basis so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Oct.19th. Car Boot Sales, yes SALFS! Both commence at 10 a.m. and finish at 2 p.m. One will be at Great Mills car park, Trowbridge and the other will be at Presto car park, Worle, nr. Weston Super Mare. Which one will make the most money for the Club? Turn out all that junk which you have been meaning to get rid of all summer and come along and turn it into cash. Good fun and well worth doing. There may be a small charge this time to Club members of £1.50 but to non-Club members it will be £3 per boot.

Oct.27th. Talk by Jim Wilkey 'Old Farming' illustrated by a film show. This is at the Old Down Inn, Emborough.

Nov.1st. Wessex Social evening which takes the place of the former Dinner/Dance and will be held this year at the New Chilcompton Village Hall, which is only a Petter-smut away from the Old Down Inn. Entertainment is by Al Fresco whom some of our members met at the Club Rally at the Secret Underground City. Once again, full details and booking forms will be in a future Newsletter. Catering this year will be a buffet-style supper in an attempt to keep the cost down and we will be running a bar with fairly limited but popular drinks. We would be most grateful for members, especially the ladies, to volunteer during the early part of the evening before the proceedings get too far under way to help with the preparation of the food and its distribution. By all joining in, this could be a value for money-night to remember. If you would care to help please contact Shirley Gale, our Secretary, on Trowbridge 67095 or at any Club meeting.

NOV.24th. An illustrated talk on Hot Air Ballooning by Christopher Davey, holder of the world

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altitude record.
Dec.7th. The 'Anti-Freeze Rally' - a winter Crank-Up at the Old Down Inn. When you grease up your engines for the winter, leave just one for this event but make sure it is a good cold-starter!
Jan.26th. An engine slide show. We are fortunate indeed to have along one of the Stationary Engine Magazine's regular photographic contributors, Philip Thornton-Evison, who will be giving us a slide show of stationary engines from outside of our area.
Feb.26th. Annual General Meeting - our Tenth Year.

FOR SALE
1961 James Captain motor-cycle, needs a little attention, £100 ono. **Bamfords No.2 Grinding Mill**, complete and in working order, £80 ono. Bob Hallam, 11 Chalfont Close, Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel.66208 after 6 p.m.
Petter PA1, 4-6 hp, at 1650 rpm, petrol, air cooled, £50; **3-cyl.high pressure vehicle wash pump**, £40; **Lister D 50volt DC lighting plant**, c/w switchboard with volt and amp meters, £100; **Petter M**, 4 hp, New Model, £100; **Lister Junior**, Hopper cooled, 3 hp, £60; **Lister D type**, £30; **Lister 10-2 Diesel twin**, 12 hp, £140; **Cyl.head** for 2½-3 hp Petter M, £10; Several **Modern Lister Lighting Plants**, 230V AC from 1¼ kW and all complete or 99% and usable. Tel Ron Torr, Oakhill 840413.
Original Ex-Air Ministry Air-Cooled Petter 5 hp. Believed to be 1942 and factory overhauled in 1964, complete and a good runner. £35 ono; **2 hp DC motor by Higgs**, 1600 rpm, 10.7 amps, 50/75 volts. Easily converted to a generator. £20 ono. Dave Smith, Meadows Works, Court St., Trowbridge. Tel.69144
Holden and Brooks centrifugal water pump, 1" bore, c/w 3 hp electric motor on a cast iron base. Would be suitable to couple to a Wolseley or Lister D to make an interesting unit, £15; **Richmond and Chandler roller mill**, £35; **Small Bristol Pneumatics compressor**, needs 3 hp, £45. Eric Brain, Tel.(0761)52633.

WANTED
Five screw-down or Stauffer type greasers, preferably 1/8 BSP and brass. Ron Torr, Tel. Oakhill, 840413.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES
Aug.30 Wells Royal British Legion Field Day & Flower Show at the Recreational Field. Entries are invited from Stationary Engine owners so if you have an afternoon to spare ring G.C.Martin on Wells 75756.
Aug.25 Corsley show, between Frome and Warminster, if you wish to attend and exhibit your engine ring Robin Lambert on Frome 63526.
Sept.6/7 'Yesterdays Farming', at Manor Farm, Long Sutton, Langport. Entries have closed but it is a most enjoyable day out for all the family.
Sept.28 Full Quart Crank-Up at Hewish near Weston-Super-Mare. This rally is renowned for its friendly atmosphere and its variety of interesting engines, super Pub lunches, stalls, vintage cars, etc. Proceeds to Cancer & Leukaemia in Childhood Trust (CLIC)
Sept 20/21 N.Somerset NVETC Rally and Ploughing Match at Grove Farm, Backwell, near Bristol. Details from Mrs, M. Hill, Ridings Farm, Dundry.

WESSEX ENGINES. A new series of articles to amuse or annoy.....!
No.1 'The M.J.C.'
The British made MJC often takes first prize although its main castings may appear overweight to some. The engine functions well under the right conditions but of late has some 'whiskering' problems around the inlet tract; this is believed by some to be only a temporary problem. Originally it provided light for a photographer's darkroom, then powered a garage parts department before being declared redundant. Recently it has seen use powering a 'hod-crusher' in a builders yard. The MJC has often tried to diversify into the steam market, an unpopular venture which has never proven really successful, although an attempted take-over of the Tangye Co has produced some remarkable results; many being highly inflammatory! Overall, a good moneyspinner for the Batheaston Works.

Emerson Brantingham

(Next month, the 'Yorkshire TTR', followed by the 'Don' (including the 'Little Billy' range, and then the 'Wedmore'. We hope to continue this series thro' the winter months.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jenny Hodgson on her 40th birthday, July 25th

BEST WISHES to Joanne and Stephen Emery on their Wedding - about time too (19th July)