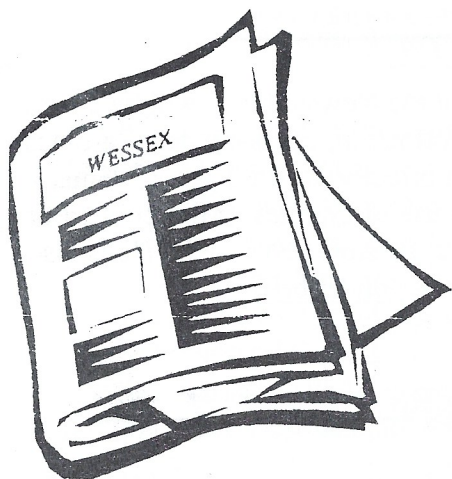
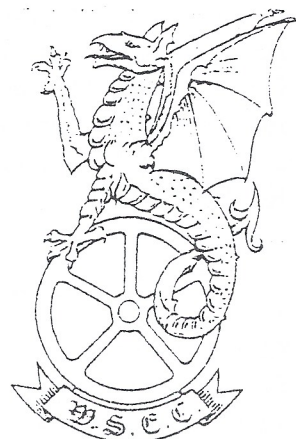


OCTOBER 2006

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED



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NEWSLETTER

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******* EDITORIAL *******

I have decided to resign as editor of this newsletter, I took the job on over 12 years ago, and now I think it is time for someone else to take on the task, with new ideas and a new image. The new editor will be Kim Siddorn who takes up the post from the first of January 2007. I hope you will keep Kim supplied with material for the newsletter in the future, as you did me in the past, without a continuous supply of material there would not be a newsletter. I was amazed when Kim rang me up and volunteered for this job, as you know we never get volunteers in the WSEC. I put his application to the committee and the result was he has now got the job. I wish Kim well in his new venture, I'm sure he will serve the club well, but don't forget, he needs your support with articles and news each month. The address to send Kim copy is Mr Kim Siddorn, 9 Durleigh Close, Headley Park, Bristol, BS13 7NQ. Kim's phone number is 0117 964818. As from the 1st January 2007 send all newsletter material to Kim. I have enjoyed my time as editor, and I would like to thank the members who have regularly kept me supplied with material over the years, that have ensured that members received their copy each month. To all of you, a big thank you. For members wishing to send Kim material via E-mail Kim's E-mail address is- kim.siddorn@blueyonder.co.uk Kim also has a website – www.regia.org

******* CHAIRMANS REPORT *******

The September meeting at the Old Down Inn saw an evenings entertainment by Colin Baker who had downloaded a disc with over three hundred pictures of stationary engines which he showed on a larger than normal screen with the very latest digital projector. This projector worked automatically, changing the picture every nine seconds. This time delay can be adjusted to whatever delay is required, all clever hi-tec stuff. I think we will probably see Colin and his projector again in the future. One event I always look forward to is the annual skittle match at Butler and Tanners social club in Frome. Unfortunately this year I could not make it, I was double booked. For weeks Oliver had been practising with his guitar tutor to play in a musical evening at my local pub, unfortunately the dates clashed and I didn't have the heart to let Oliver down. We had a really good evening with Oliver doing two appearances with the rest of the musicians, and having the loudest applause of the night. Since then he has won a talent competition at a club he attends, singing and I've been brought up in an old environment, meaning me I'm sure. The report I had of the skittle night was very good indeed, really good food thanks to Diana and Tony, and a good raffle with Margaret Simmons doing sterling work selling the tickets, and her husband Henry Simmons winning the prize for the highest score. Well done Henry. You will see from an appeal in this newsletter that I am standing down as Chairman at the AGM, this means you will only get four more Chairman's reports from me. Hopefully whoever takes over from me will supply you with a good report each month as I have tried to do for the last twelve years.

WESSEX WEB PAGES – NEW LOCATION.

The club web page can now be found at www.wessex-sec.co.uk This should raise it's "profile" for those using search engines like Google to look for items on the internet. Should you have any suggestions/ideas for the web pages I can be contacted by email at jrogers53@aol.com **JOHN ROGERS.**

***** **LETTER TO THE EDITOR** *****

After twelve years of service, Brian Baker has decided to step down as Editor of the Newsletter. It will be a hard act to follow, but Kim Siddorn has offered to do the job and asks for events information, crank-up dates, articles generally connected with stationary engines and their use or display to be sent directly to him from 1st January 2007. In particular he is keen to publish articles and reminiscences about the use of engines in the civilian or service lives of our members. His address is J. Kim Siddorn, 9, Durleigh Close, Bristol. BS13 7NQ. He is also available by E-mail and welcomes this form of communication. kim.siddorn@blueyonder.co.uk

KIM SIDDORN

***** **URGENT APPEAL FOR CLUB OFFICERS** *****

At the AGM in February I intend standing down as Chairman of this club, after twelve years I consider it is time for someone else to take over, hopefully with a few more new ideas for the benefit of the club. Also Arthur has tendered his resignation as secretary of the club, this is a very important task, as under company law we cannot operate without a secretary. Also Fred Biggs wishes to step down from the committee. As you can see this leaves large gaps in the numbers of the officers of the club, and it is essential to fill these posts to ensure the smooth running of the club. We are now looking for nominations to fill these posts of Chairman, Secretary, and committee members. Any nominations will be voted in at the AGM. Please send in your nominations to the secretary, Arthur Smith. Coombe Castle, Heytesbury, Warminster, Wiltshire. BA12 0SF.

***** **EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY** *****

SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER S.S.A.P.C. Autumn Sortout at Buncome Lane Yeovil. For details ring 01935 824543.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 27th Club Night at the Old Down Inn. Guest Speaker Mike Horler. A presentation and talk about "THE WHEELWRIGHTS SHOP" We have had talks from Mike before so we know we are in for a real treat once again, do not miss this one. The usual raffle will take place after the talk.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3rd Anti-freeze crank-up at Nunney Catch Transport Café. The café will be open for hot food and drinks. We will have our usual grand raffle, prizes will be most welcome. Displays, cars, motorcycles, bits and pieces for sale will all be welcome. Any enquires ring 01749 342671.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27th (Day after Boxing Day). Mince pie Crank-Up at the Old Down Inn. Hot mince pies and sausage rolls free for members. The pub will be open for drinks etc. The usual raffle will take place, prizes will be gratefully received. Ring 01749 342671 for further details.

SKITTLE EVENING AT BUTLER & TANNER'S SOCIAL CLUB – FROME
SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER

Around 50 club members and friends turned out for our annual skittle match, and as the game progressed once again all the regular skittlers got low scores and all the once a year players got the highest ones. We only had time to play two legs owing to the large amount of players and at half time Tony and Diana arrived with 50 odd portions of fish and chips and I must say along with a pint of John Smiths mine went down a treat.

With the second leg of the game completed it was time to tot up the scores and the highest lady was Primrose scoring 17, highest man was Henry with 15, lowest score Martin but I may have got this wrong it probably should have been Roger !!! and the lowest junior was Max (it seems that low scores run in the family).

With the skittles over our vice chairman Eric along with Diana held the raffle with a stage full of prizes on offer. This was a real fun evening with lots of banter and leg pulling. Jackie tells me that at the end of the evening our club funds were boosted by the grand sum of £67 pounds thanks to the excellent raffle ticket sales by Margaret, well down to her.

ROBIN

CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTHS NEWSLETTER-
MY RALLYING YEAR SO FAR. By ERIC GAY

We had a two week break after Castle Coombe, then it the long journey to Selwood Rally at Southwick, all of four miles from home. The Selwood club again put on a very good rally, with Steam exhibits, Cars, Commercials, Military vehicles, Stationary engines and a small working area this year, in this area were two pole lathes. (have you ever had a go on a pole lathe?) well I got my chance at Southwick and spent about an hour being given first rate instruction on the use of the pole lathe, and after talking to the owner I persuaded him to come along to our rally at Clutton. I took the Lister A tank cooled over to Selwood and this year it behaved itself, running all three days without missing a stroke, much better than last years disaster when the cooling tank split and the magneto lost it's spark. The engine line up had some very nice engines, it was the weather that was not kind over the weekend, the rally suffers from the Trowbridge syndrome – very much like when the Wessex were at Semington, complete lack of public support, yet the rubbishy car boot sale in the adjacent field was full of people on Sunday and Monday. The tight fisted apathetic folk of Trowbridge and the surrounding area wont spend a couple of quid to get a good days entertainment, and the chance to see a very good selection of exhibits. Anyway the Wessex Stationary Engine Club was well represented at this years event, well done lads, and lets hope for better weather next year at Southwick. It was now on to the Wiltshire Agriculture Preservation Groups rally at Rainscombe Park near Pewsey. What can I say about this event? It is totally magnificent. If I could only go to one rally a year this would be the one. Set in lovely surroundings the rally has everything the vintage enthusiast could ever want, with steam exhibits, both full size and models on show, driving around the show ground and in the model steam area. It had to be eighty or more and all were in full steam, along with the full size engines. At the lower end of the site Kelston Sparkes ploughing engines were hard at work, while in an adjacent field vintage tractors were also hard at work, and not to be missed were the teams of shire horses with plough and harrow. The layout for the stationary engines could not be bettered, with plenty of room and no clutter around you. (well done Graham, keep up the good work) The trade area is again top rate with some very good auto-jumble, many useful bits and bobs could be found. This event deserves to be classed as one of the best, and I for one will be looking forward to next year's event. From the best to the worst it has ever been my misfortune to attend – North Nibley. Now some of you hate engine pens, and want your transport close by, well how about nearly half a mile to walk to your van or car, well that's how far the truck was from the engine. That was just the start, when I arrived no one could tell me where the engine area was, or that we had to sign in at the marshals caravan. No one was on hand to tell you which pen you had to go in, this really didn't matter as most of the pens were empty any way. There were only five engines in the pen I was in, and two pens further up the field were completely empty all weekend. If it had not been for three very large lorry mounted stationary engines on display the stationary engine side of this rally would have been a complete waste of time. You hope that things will improve over the weekend, but not at Nibley. I was told that 46 engines that had entered the rally never turned up, I for one can't blame them. Three weeks later it was the Somerset Traction Engine Club's Rally at Low Ham. What a wonderful show, I have been going to Low ham for more years than I care to remember and it has always been one of the best. This year they put on one of the best yet in my opinion. The show had everything, including good weather, (the views across Somerset are spectacular). The traction engine section this year was magnificent, with parades in the very large ring going on most of the day, both Saturday and Sunday. Sunday also had an equestrian event, plus tractors, Motorcycles, Cars, Commercials, and Model Steam engines. In the ring, chained inside a bag, and in peril of his life as a 10 ton roller bore down on him, was an escapologist, don't worry folks, he did escape, just in time. I took the Bamford and corn mill and we were close to the working area, with threshing machine, baler, rack saws etc. I wanted some wheat for the mill, just one word and I had my wheat, what a difference to some shows, all the people I met could not have been more friendly or more helpful. All in all another first class rally by The Somerset Traction Engine Club, long may it continue. Well that's my rallying year so far, I hope you have all had a good year up till now, and if this lot has not been boring I will let you know how the rest of the year pans out.

ERIC.

Members will be pleased to know the committee have decided not to raise membership subscriptions for next year, this is despite the postal charges rising and a rise in our insurance premium. The price remains at £11 for a double. £9 for single membership and just £1 for junior membership. Renewal slips will be in the December newsletter. Renewals have to be made to Jackie Lambert. 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome Somerset BA11 2AX. Cheques made payable to W.S.E.C.Ltd.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<< YOU NEVER KNOW YOUR LUCK >>>>>>>>>>>>>>

You may recall that Brian was not best pleased by the turn out for the Rally post-mortem and table top auction. (that is putting it mildly ED) Those of us who did attend however were rewarded by Colin Baker's ad hoc film show, recording the production and testing of Morris cars in the late 20's or early 30's. One sequence showing the building of radiators really struck a chord in my memory. Some of you will know, that among my various toys, I have a 1928 Austin Heavy Twelve motor carriage. For many years it was my only transport – it really had to earn its keep, after all it cost me twenty five quid in 1957! Like all aged machines it had a few eccentricities, among which was a thirst for water, a harmless and cheap addiction. Eventually however it got to the point that the radiator required topping up every 20 miles or so. This became a nuisance on long trips, so I fitted a spare second hand radiator I had by me. Oh dear! This one was worse, jets of water came out all over the place, nearly as fast as you could pour it in the top! The original rad was refitted, whilst the next move was considered. After much thought I took the worst rad to Tuckers Radiator Services in Bedminster. The manager there looked at it, turned it over, scratched his bald head and finally came up with a price to re-core it. I can't remember how much it cost, but with three kids and a mortgage anything more than 2/6 was a lot of money! After recovering from the shock, I asked him to go ahead, after all I had paid 25 quid for the car so could hardly afford to scrap it just for the sake of a radiator, besides which, I am fond of the old thing. However Mr tucker said there is one snag – we are rather busy at the moment, it will take three months to get to this one. I said I could live with that, and it would give me time to raise the necessary finance. After the three months were up, I went back to tuckers and was told – “we are still very busy, it will be another month.” At the end of a month I again went to visit my radiator and was told, “next week.” These weekly visits became quite a social occasion as I got to know Mr Tucker rather well. Then one day rather unexpectedly I was handed a bill together with a pristine radiator. I could hardly believe it. I had never seen anything so beautifully turned out before. The semi-matt black paint and polished brass almost took my breath away. I could hardly wait to get home to fit it, even if it did make the rest of the car look shabby. The following day I was going to visit my mother at Salisbury. I got as far as Frome (14 miles) when there was steam everywhere. A kindly householder provided some water and I finally reached home. Examination showed there was a pretty serious leak near the bottom of the matrix. Had I done some damage fitting it? Was the road vibration from the stiff old cart springing too much for a modern matrix? Well there was nothing else for it but to go and see Mr Tucker again with my leaky radiator and my tail tucked between my legs. Mr Tucker looked long and hard, adjusted his glasses, scratched his head and finally said. No it's nothing you have done, it's a dud core, we will change it and it won't cost you anything,” but we are a bit busy at the moment.” So our weekly meetings continued as before. One day he said, we will do it this week, come back on Friday. With this he picked up my rad, wound a bit of wire around the filler neck, marched off to the pickle tank, submerged the rad in the soup and hooked the wire over the edge. On Friday I returned as instructed. Mr Tucker took one look at me, his face fell a mile and he raced down the workshop to the pickle tank. As I caught him up he lifted the bit of bent wire, now only attached to the filler neck, out of the liquid. Of the radiator there was nothing to be seen. Fishing with a stick produced yards of bright copper shim, just like Colin's film. Further fishing produced nice bright brass header and bottom tanks in kit form. The pickle had completely dissolved all the solder. Sorry I was told, we can put it all back together again – come back next week. A week later I was surprised to be handed a pristine radiator. This time there was no problem, it didn't leak and still doesn't some thirty years on. So all's well that ends well. I never saw Mr Tucker again, but if you need a radiator repaired don't go looking for him, like so many useful small firms “Tuckers” have disappeared in the mists of time.

MICHAEL JENNINGS

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< NEWS ROUNDUP >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

The club would like to extend birthday wishes to the following Wiltshire residents. A very happy birthday to our secretary **Arthur Smith** who celebrates his birthday on October 19th. Many happy returns of the day from us all Arthur, do try and stay sober this year. Also we wish the Wiltshire Moonraker, alias **Bob Hallam** a very happy birthday when he celebrates his birthday on the 24th October. Try and stop him spending all day in the pub this year Jill. Best wishes to you both.

The club would like to congratulate **Jonathon Hockedy** (our ex junior reporter) on going to Exeter University to take a degree in languages, mainly to study Arabic. We wish him well with his studies and every success in the future. The thing as Editor I miss most, is Jonathon's superb reports that earned him the title of "Junior Reporter. Please keep us informed of your progress Jonathon.