

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1992

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CLUB RALLY 20th/21st June 1992.

As many of you will know now having read our club rally entry form, we are moving our annual rally to a new location in Wiltshire, off the A361 road approximately four miles east of Trowbridge and just before Semington roundabout (close to the Semington sale field). A large field has been made available to us, which will enable exhibits, camping and public car parking to be contained all within the show. It should be a good catchment area for the general public as four busy roads all meet at Semington. The move will mean a lot of work for our committee, as to relocate a show is quite a major task having been familiar with our past site at Cheddar. We should wish them good luck in the new venue and give them all the support we can.

ED.

THE AFTER CHRISTMAS CRANK-UP.

On the 27th December a crank-up was held at Nash's Timber Yard halfway between Shepton Mallet and Castle Cary by invitation of Brian and Ray Baker. As the weather was dry and mild Brian and I decided to go and see what it was all about. We arrived at the yard through puddles and piles of timber, but where the engines were was hard and dry.

Brian Baker greeted me with 'Oh I'm so glad to see you, would you please help with coffees, tea etc., so I spent the next two or three hours serving coffee, hot-dog sausage rolls and mince pies which Brian and Ray had so kindly laid on for all. Now I had better tell you about the engines.

Brian and Ray Baker had three engines running namely WD2 Wolseley and compressor, Petter A1 and their Lister Junior. Eric Gay with tulip top Bamford, which gave a bit of trouble but a quick blast with the air line sorted out the non return valve after which the engine behaved itself.

It was nice to see Stan and Freda Kerley from Salisbury with their Lion Norman generating set. We hope you both enjoyed your day.

Young Nathan Amos from Bristol had persuaded Dad to bring him along complete with Petter A1 and Lister pump. Cecil Giblett - unknown open crank, surely some one can give it a name, Other engines included a 1075 Crossley from Ted Durbin, WD2 Wolseley - John Brooks, Amanco - Mike Bevan, 1½ BP Ruston - Dave Austin, Petter Apple Top - Don Rogers, ½hp Stuart and pump, myself and Brian. Roy Pointing and Liz came along complete with garden tractor also the owner of the timber yard Keith Nash brought out his Gregaire vintage car.

Other members who turned up were Bill Coombes, Rob Lambert, Bill Appleby and Brian Lovell. In all we had a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to Brian and Ray for this nice little event as it made a welcome change after the Christmas festivities to get out in the fresh air. Lets hope this can be a regular get together.

MARY VERRALL.

Thank you for your report Mary, it certainly was a nice little event, just the thing to work off some of the large portions of Christmas pudding and turkey and get ones limbs moving again after the two day holiday. I'll certainly be looking forward to the next one. ED.

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THE SODBURY SORT OUT.

This was the Sodbury Vale Group's answer to a car boot sale. It would appear at first that to be included all items had to be either old, rusty or agricultural, there were exceptions to this, namely two ex WD heavy trucks fully restored and ready to go for a few thousand pounds but the majority was engine or tractor related. A couple of grey Fergy tractors were on offer along with ploughs and all the relevant tackle. One lorry from over the Bridge came loaded up with Petter M's, Lister A's, Lister Diesel 6hp, Fairbanks Morse, a couple of generators, cast iron tool boxes. A Sodbury member had a truck with Lister A's, B's and D's, a small diesel, WW2 generating set, belt driven drilling machines and cast iron wheels to numerous to mention, it was as the title implied a real old fashioned sort out.

Prices were reasonable and buying was less frantic than at an auction, there were a few club members on site, Eric Brain and Patrick Knight were seen loitering around Tim Macaire's stall along with other Victoria owners.

In total some thirty plus stalls filled the field near the Cross Hands Pub at Old Sodbury, the dry weather plus free tea from the farmers wife made this a good morning out, Everybody hoped it would become a regular thing. Its nice to see the old junk stalls back again.

BRIAN REAKES.

MODEL ENGINEERS EXHIBITION.

Alexandra Palace - 29th December to 5th January.

A chance remark by a work colleague led me to arrive at this show not quite sure what to expect, having only a few times ventured to our capital city and not always been impressed by the city way of life.

From the outside, Alexandra Palace itself looks a grand and majestic building situated on top of a hill overlooking a large part of London. Once it was the home of the British Broadcasting Corporation, its huge pylon type mast is still in situ on top of the building which is surrounded by parks and woodland walks, a very pleasant location.

Having paid the £5 entrance fee the first exhibition hall housed a large indoor lake for all the model boats to sail around and different clubs would give a commentary on various models sailing around the lake. Lightweight model aircraft were flying around another part of this hall. The type we all used to make with rubber bands to drive the propellor, after launching they all flew in a large circle with a fixed rudder and some seemed to stay in the air so long you had to give up watching and go and look at something else.

Once inside the main hall this was to be what I had really come to see, superbly modelled engines, trains, boats, planes and vehicles of every description. Judging of the exhibits must have taken place as many had awards alongside, some depicting the Duke of Edinburgh gold and silver medals. An interesting challenge was put to the model engineers to see how much power they could produce from a night-light (a candle). Lots of ingenious apparatus took up the challenge and a popular one was a miniature hot air engine driving a dynamo. All around the hall were trade stands stacked with tools and material for those who were looking for bits and pieces, a few bargains to be had but lots of things seemed very expensive to me.

For five and a half hours I was captivated by what was on view and would certainly like to go again next year. A shame its so far to travel but there it is. A useful tip for anyone who would like to go is to travel early and try and arrive not later than 11.00 a.m. as all the car parks fill up quickly.

ED.

FOR SALE - Two Lister 'D' type engines, both almost complete. £30 the pair.
Phone Dennis on 0373 812436.

FOR SALE - Ex Post Office X Reg. 1800 cc Diesel Sherpa Van, side windows and seats fitted rear of driver. Towbar. M.O.T. has run out owing to other projects. Would accept £350 or swap for BSA Bantam D14 bike or an open crank engine. Phone 0276 683193.

FOR SALE - Europa 480 Caravan 1983 - 4/5 Berth. Double Glazed, Oven, Heater, Awning. Many Extras in very good condition has been stored under cover. £2,650 Telephone 0935 74557.

WANTED - Undrilled valve plug for 5 hp Victoria - Brian Reakes, 43 Queens Road, Keynsham, Bristol or phone Bristol 0272 868649.

A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME - Part 2.

Last month we were taken back to the last century to visit a gunpowder works in Cornwall, this month the guided tour continues.

Back in the summer of 1990, we noticed a new nature trail sign near our favourite caravan site in Cornwall, and decided to explore further. We parked the car and set off down the narrow footpath, the gate posts along the path showed that at one time it has been much wider. Down the narrow valley we went accompanied by the sound of running water as yet unseen. Now and again we came across the foundations of ruined buildings some quite extensive, although their purpose we couldn't guess. At several places great blocks of granite were piled up as if to form a wall, collapsed in places and pushed aside by trees. The purpose of such a large wall, if indeed that's what it was, is hard to imagine.

Reaching the valley bottom we at last saw the small river running there. A substantial stone bridge allowed us to cross. From the bridge parapet came an amazing sight. All up the side of the valley could be seen the ruins of water mills, easily distinguished by the wheel pit dividing each building. The line of the mill stream, now full of silt can still be traced and the network of leats feeding the wheels can be seen.

The foot path lead past each wheel house in turn, all the machinery now long gone, broken portions of stone millstones litter the site. At the head of the valley, we sat down for a rest and speculated on what the mills had been for. With a little imagination I could hear the wheels turning the mills, the shouts of workers and the clatter of horses on the cobbled road. My mind wandered back to over one hundred years ago to see how things must have been then - a busy and thriving industry.

JEREMY ADAMS.

SARAH'S DILEMA.

Hello! my name is Stuart Turner (P4M), I was brought by my new owner and taken to my new home. I was full of expectation from the promises I heard. A complete strip down, new parts and new paint he said. I couldn't wait.

I got nervous when I saw the hammer, tools etc. But I was made of stern stuff and did not flinch. All went well, new gaskets, grease strip down and rust preserver. The promise of new friends at many rallies filled me with excitement. I got chatting to my new friend Ruston Hornsby P.T. He told me such stories of these rallies of starring in videos and programmes.

The season started, I waited and waited but I still needed my petrol tank, exhaust and paint. Oh well, perhaps next weekend.

My friend Ruston even faked a breakdown at a rally but he managed to overcome this. I thanked my friend. Oh well perhaps next season. Then one evening I got really excited, a new petrol tank.

Then yet another blow, he came home with a BSA Bantam. How I hate that name. Now he's renovating that, some owner I have. I feel like a Christmas puppy. What about me?

So to all you others waiting I hope this year will bring you that new paint and promises. If not, perhaps we should get together and be stationary at a rally!!!!!!!!!!!!

SARAH NEWMAN.

A familiar, often heard tale of woe Sarah, when other projects jump the restoration queue, Perhaps a handful of corn will tempt the Bantam to wait it's turn. ED.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Although subscriptions are coming fairly quickly can I say to those who have not yet rejoined that although you will receive a newsletter for January and February you are not insured with the Club as from January 1st. So hope to hear from you soon.

TREASURER.

(4)
DOWN WILTSHIRE WAY.

The Story of a Recent Find.

This tale starts on Monday 4th November at about 4.45 in the afternoon, I was driving home, Wiltshire Sound was rumbling away on the van radio, Monday Market, was being broadcast, my ears opened when a lady caller offered a pair of old scales with brass weights for sale. Just the job to go with the corn mill I thought. So when I arrived home I gave her a ring, too late they had been sold. "Too late is the story of my life, I'm always too late". But she took my phone number, just in case the purchaser did not turn up.

I put the phone down and promptly forgot all about the matter, until the phone rang on Wednesday the 13th. Twas the good lady with the scales, the original purchaser had not turned up, if I still wanted them I could go to Hullavington and have a look. Thursday evening saw me heading for the village. I did buy the scales, but the best is yet to come, What are you going to use them for? she asked, I told her I was going to display them with my old corn mill and engine at steam rallies and vintage shows. Now before I knew what was happening the dear lady was on the phone, and fifteen minutes later I was sat with Mr. Freeman in his farm house. He had an old engine on the farm he wanted to sell.

We arranged a time when I could go and have a look at the wee beasty. Sunday saw me once again heading for Hullavington village. When I arrived I was taken to a huge wood pile and after clambering into the middle I came face to face with the prettiest little Lister 'A' tank cooled you ever did see, I now own a Lister. It is a runner and still has the spanner for removing the valve plugs, it was built in 1936 and was first owned by a Mr. Fry, the local cycle repair man, he used it for driving a dynamo for charging radio batteries and lighting his workshop, it was later sold to Mr. Wicks, the local hurdle maker, and used on the saw bench. After a spell of wood cutting duties it was bought by Mr. Freeman's father for driving the milking machine and worked in this way for many years, until along came an air cooled diesel which took over in the milking parlour.

The little Lister was moved to the wood yard and drove the saw bench. After a very serious accident milking had to be given up on the farm (you can't milk with a broken back), beware of loading hay on top of large trailers and falling off. The diesel now took over in the wood yard and the Lister 'A' was able to take a well earned rest, it is now resting in my garage, it will get a good home and some T.L.C. the only thing I need for the Lister is a silencer, so if any one has one laying around you know who to ring. I am now a devoted listener to Wiltshire Sound, you never know it could be a Blackstone next.

ERIC GAY.

WHAT'S ON IN 1992.

DAFFODIL DAY at Mells Nr. Frome on Easter Monday 20th April. Exhibitors please contact:-
Chris Tye on (0373) 812331.

2nd DORSET SPRING FAIR - May 2/3/4th 1992 at Chapeldown Farm, Sixpenny Handley, Dorset.
For details contact Michael Oliver 0258 860361.

SOUTHWICK & NORTH BRADLEY SCOUT GROUP'S ANNUAL SUMMER FETE to be held at Southwick on
Saturday 27th June. Contact Shirley Gale (0225) 767095.

NETLEY MARSH STEAM RALLY on the 24/25/26th July, 1992.

CLUB EVENTS

29th March - Visit to Bristol Industrial Museum and Store-room. Meet outside Museum
at 2.00pm. The Museum is situated in Princes Wharf City Docks.

30th March - Usual Club Night - Engine Drive.

Overheard in the Ladies Loo

" _____ restoring a garden tractor which he says I can use to go to TESCO
while he's off down the KINGS ARMS for a pint _ _ _ _ _".