

# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1992

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### CLUB VISIT TO BRISTOL INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM.

On Sunday March 30th at 2 p.m. about 40 Wessex Club members assembled on the dockside at Bristol City Docks for a visit to the Bristol Industrial Museum and their storeroom, to view items not normally seen by the general public.

While we were waiting for our guide we had a chance to look at some of their outside working exhibits. These consisted of the 'Portbury' steam loco, pulling a goods wagon and guards brake van, this was in steam giving passengers rides along the dockside, quite an impressive sight, also on the dockside was a 35 ton Fairbury steam crane. Tied up alongside the dock was the 'Mayflower' steam powered boat built in 1861, it is the oldest surviving steamer built in Bristol, it spent most of it's working life on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. Also in the dock is the ex Bristol fire brigade fire fighting ship 'The Pyronaut', this is currently under restoration by the museum.

By now our guide had appeared wearing overalls and looking as though he had just left a restoration job, he introduced himself as Andy King, assistant curator. He led us through the museum to the storeroom beyond, normally out of bounds to the public. The first section was a display of early printing machinery with a mock up of an early printers shop. He hoped this would eventually be on view to the public. Andy then took us through to the storeroom and 'turned us loose', look at anything and everything, he said. Talk about an

Aladdins cave this was definitely it. One of the first things to catch my eye was an early Victoria engine, circa 1911? on this engine was tied a label which read, The Bursar, Wells Cathedral School, Generator set 1966, I can only assume this must have been installed in the school driving a generator many years ago and was given to the museum in 1966. I then spotted Eric Gay looking enviously at a very large pillar drill belt driven, very old but in perfect condition, we both decided we could drill straight holls for a change if only we had such a machine.

All the items in the museum were either made or used in and around Bristol. There were three Victoria's, a large Lister, probably a 'P', a Griffin Gas engine made in 1885 by Samuel Griffin of Bath, this was 6 h.p. and 200 rpm. I then spotted two large Ruston 6 cylinder diesel engines which looked as if they had just been fully restored. Andy told me they belonged to the Pyronaut boat and were ready for refitting. An interesting large three cylinder pump with fast and loose pulleys next caught my eye, this was donated by Watney Mann the brewers. There was a Verity engine with Aston generator and switchgear.

I doubt if any of these engines and machinery will ever be restored and displayed because due to financial cutbacks they do not have the resources or manpower. The museum operates with four permanent staff and relies heavily on enthusiastic volunteer labour. A large part of their time is spent maintaining the outside exhibits such as the Loco, the crane and the boats. Andy also told us the free admission was about to be replaced by a £2 admission charge, this is a sad retrograde step as I am sure this will drastically reduce the amount of visitors looking at these wonderful exhibits of our glorious industrial past. Just imagine what it would cost a family of four or five!!

The items in store ranged from, old bones from various digs to a massive machine for twisting ropes, horse drawn vehicles, horse harness from Bristol police, a belt drive Rover motorcycle Reg No. AE 615, a Douglas M/C engine and tank, various church and ship bells, a large mechanism of a church clock complete with two large faces, plus thousands of items from

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Bristols industrial past all far to numerous to mention.

After about an hour Andy said he was rounding us up to go back into the main museum (empty your pockets on the way out). I would like to convey my thanks to Andy for giving us the opportunity to see all those wonderful artefacts also for answering numerous questions I asked him about things I was interested in. We went into the museum to view all the exhibits there.

I was most impressed by a magnificent display of early radial aircraft engines. I would certainly like one of those to get my spanners on, what an exhibit that would make at the Wessex Rally. There were nice displays of Douglas motorcycles made in Kingswood of course, Bristol cars, even a complete helicopter and a mock up of Concord.

After looking at all the exhibits it was now four o'clock so we decided to call it a day and head for home. I consider this visit one of the most interesting afternoons spent for many a long day. (Since last years Cheddar rally in fact. Ha! Ha!)

BRIAN J. BAKER.

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#### WHATS ON IN 1992

The Cam Valley Group of the Avon Wildlife Trust will be holding an open day at Lord Hylton's Ammerdown Estate on the Frome To Radstock road on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May. The gardens are open to the public. A number of groups and organisations have been invited to exhibit and perhaps we could make a display of working engines. Anyone that is interested can find out more from Cam Valley Group chairman - Andre Fournier on Midsomer Norton 418153.

DEVIZES & DISTRICT P.H.A.B. sponsored wheelchair push, 10 mile run and vintage rally - June 13th. Entry forms from our Secretary - Shirley Gale, 18 Church Lane, North Bradley, Trowbridge, Wilts.

ALWESTON RALLY Sherborne, Dorset. - Bank Holiday Monday May 4th.  
Entry forms from our Secretary - Shirley Gale.

MENDIP CRANK-UP & CAR BOOT SALE - Sunday 2nd August at Tencrest Garage, Gurney Slade.  
No forms, just phone Bill Coombes re: engine entries and stall spaces. Tel. Oakhill 840868

CRANK-UP at The Full Quart, Hewish, Nr. Weston-super-Mare. September 27th (Sunday)  
Invitation only to exhibit. But please come along and look around, all proceeds to C.L.I.C.

JOHN KYTE'S GARDEN PARTY - October 3rd & 4th - held in John's large garden, next to the pub in the High Street of Market Lavington, Wiltshire. For more information telephone John on 0380 - 813701.

UPHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE near Weston-super-Mare. Saturday 20th June. Engines wanted  
Contact Mrs. Peck 0934 - 416446.

GARRISON OPEN DAY '92 at Warminster Barracks on Saturday 6th June. A country show with a military flavour that will also have a theme celebrating the 48th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Contact Shirley Gale for details.

CLUB CRANK-UP Monday 18th May at the Old Down Inn. (No meeting on the 25th May as its the Bank Holiday).

ESSEX STEAM & CRAFT SHOW held at Barleyland Farm Museum, Billericay and advertised in the January newsletter has now had its date changed to the last weekend in September, if any one is in that area in September and wished to attend Terry Heath may be able to give more details.

#### GOODS TO SELL

Good quality sweatshirts, navy blue with embroidered club logo £13.00 each.

Car Stickers	-	60p each	Tax Disc holder	-	30p each
Metal Club badge	-	£1.00 each	Tubby Pads	-	£1.20 each
Brass Wessex plate	-	£1.50 each	Key Rings	-	60p each

Sweatshirts can be purchased from Shirley, Jackie or Vic Walton who also holds all the other goods for sale or contact any committee member.

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EXETER MARITIME MUSEUM - A report in the local paper says that the worlds largest collection of working boats has re-opened after fears that it could have been lost for ever. The Museum which has approx. 150 boats and small craft went into liquidation five months ago after Exeter City Council had refused to fund it. A few years ago our Club ran a coach trip to this museum and a very enjoyable day was had. Would it be worth repeating??

A PAST LOCAL CUSTOM

As we are moving our annual rally close to Trowbridge, one of our club members, Bob Hallam, thought it would be nice if we learnt a little about past historical local customs once associated with the cloth trade:-

THE SEG CART

At the end of the last century, a cheap and readily available source of the ammonia needed for the scouring of cloth in the West Wilts factories was human urine. The townsfolk of Trowbridge could turn an honest copper by retaining the contents of their chamber pots and selling it when the seg cart came round. (Seg Sig. Urine Dartnell and Goddard, Wiltshire Words). Dartnell writes as follows in a letter dated 21st January 1893: "The seg cart was all too familiar to the nose as well as the eye, when we were living in the Trowbridge neighbourhood some 20 years ago. We were obliged to hint very strongly to certain individuals that its daily triumphant progress thro' the streets had better take place before "the quality" were out and about, as it was a perfect nuisance seeing the thing being filled up at all hours wherever one went".

Thank you Bob for enlightening us and bringing tears to our eyes and lumps in our throats. I suppose the cart could still play a useful role in the rally camping area. ED.

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F O R S A L E

Harrison Awning to suit Eccles Topaz or 12'6" caravan. £90. Tel. Brian Reakes Bristol 868549

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6 hp Petter 'M' type tank cooled engine £200, also foot operated grindstone which needs restoring £20. Tel: Ray Love on 0747 840835.

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Motor cycle mag. with advance and retard mechanism. It's a Thomson Bennett type AC1 9.602A it gives a good spark. Ring Chris Arnold - Bradford on Avon 6565.

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Chain Block 1 ton safe working load - £10.

Bronze gear wheel pump 5/8" inlet and discharge - £15.

Cast iron centrifugal pump on bedplate with fast and loose pulleys - 3" inlet and outlet - £10.

Bar tubing and hollow bar offcuts: brass £1 kilo, bronze (suitable bearing bushes etc) £1.50 kilo, steel 10p kilo, stainless 50p kilo.

Black and galvanised pipe, sockets, bends, reducers etc. for exhaust and cooling systems, 10p kilo.

Cast iron wheels: 2 x 12" dia x 7/8" bore, spoked - £2.00 each.  
 2 x 12" dia x 7/8" bore, spoked - £1.50 each.  
 2 x 12" dia x 7/8" bore, plain - £1.50 each.  
 4 x 10" dia x 1 1/4" bore, plain, solid rubber tyred - £1.50 each.  
 4 x 7 1/2" dia x 11/16" bore, plain - 50p each.  
 Various odd wheels, prices similar to above.

Length of line shafting, complete with ring lubricated plummer blocks on cast iron pedestals, fast and loose pulleys and stepped pulley 7", 9" and 11" diameter - £10.

BMC 2.2 diesel cylinder head - £10. Starter Motor - £5.00. Both ex Land Rover.

Ford 1600 cross flow and BMC Mini cylinder heads Free.

Contact David Griffiths, 29 Somerset Road, Frome. Tel: 0373 - 464808.

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W A N T E D

Mag. for Lister 'A' ML Lister Mk 1-3 Silencer for Lister 'A' Ring Chris Arnold on Bradford on Avon 6565.

Petrol Tank bracket for B.S.A. Stationary engine. Tel: Bill Coombes on Oakhill 840868.

Petrol tank for Petter A1 Rounded ends, with screw type filler. Please ring Brian Baker on 0749 342671.



ENGINE DRIVE - Club evening Monday March 30th

This evening was just a friendly fun night, similar to a beetle drive only using a stationary engine (very nicely drawn by Shirley). A maximum of twelve points could be gained when every part of the engine was completed. Our Secretary had to read out HER rules of the game and kept a watchful eye to see that no one was cheating, and as each person got quicker and more expert at throwing the dice it became fast moving. As each engine was completed everyone moved one chair to the left so having a new opposite number each time. Some members had come to the meeting not having a clue what they were letting themselves in for, but soon got into the spirit of the game.

When we had reached our twelfth engine we had a well earned break to refill our glasses and order our rolls to give us strength for the next session. Eric had been busy extracting 50p's for the raffle tickets, and very good at it he is to and we had the draw during the break. The lucky winners were: new member Mr. C. Russell, a bottle of wine, Brian Baker, cans of beer and Andy Gale, a burglar alarm, perhaps he'll wire Shirley up to stop some one pinching her (The mind boggles).

The overall winner of the engine drive was Bob Hallam who was presented with a bottle of wine. Well done Bob.

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WELCOME to our newest members - Mr. & Mrs. M.L. Lawson & Chris, Mr. & Mrs. R. Powell and his two boys from Hayden, Nr. Radstock, Mr. & Mrs. I. Humphries and Krista from Glamorgan and Mr. & Mrs. C. Russell from Glastonbury.

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I N S U R A N C E

A REMINDER to club members of our insurance policy schedule previously printed in January, 1991 newsletter.

- 1) Each member is entitled to exhibit three engines either running or stationary on the rally field or in the confines of their home.
- 2) You are not covered for any personal injury unfortunately - only persons who are not the owners of the engines: (i.e. the general public).
- 3) Your engine is not covered for theft, damage whilst loading/unloading or transportation to and from rallies.
- 4) The insurance covers engine owners, only if a proper safety code is carried out on the rally field. This means, the public should not be within six feet of displayed exhibits; each working exhibit must be displayed at least three feet apart; no persons under the age of eighteen years to be left in charge of any working exhibit; machines/exhibits should be supervised at all times by an insured person.
- 5) JUNIOR MEMBERS Please note that our insurance does not cover junior members under the age of 18 years. NOTE This is as is in the Wessex Stationary Engine Club constitution and rules and says 'exhibiting junior members must have a Wessex Stationary Engine Club parent member or guardian member in attendance at the rally, and to be directly supervising the junior at all times.'

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OBITUARY It is with deep regret we learn of the death of Mr. Cecil Goffin, club member from Burnham-on-Sea. Our condolences go out to his family.

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LOOKING AHEAD to our Club Rally at Semington, now is the time to mention what a good job our club stall does to boost our funds by selling all sorts of items donated by club members, so please once again turn out your lofts, workshops and cupboards and bring along all your unwanted items for us to sell, they will be very much appreciated. Also owing to the success of the cake stall last year, we are going to repeat it again, so anything in the food line would be most helpful.

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KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

<u>President</u>	Herbie Gane	<u>Chairman</u>	Brian Verrall
<u>Vice-Chairman</u>	Eric Gay	<u>Secretary</u>	Shirley Gale
<u>Treasurer</u>	Jackie Lambert	<u>Publicity</u>	Brian Reakes
<u>Club Goods for sale</u> - Vic Walton, Roy Pointing, Alan Carney, Steve Routley, Paul Allen, Ted Routley, Roger Pike and our newest member Brian Baker.			

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OVERHEARD by everyone at Upton-on-Severn. The loudspeaker announce "Would Mr. Smith go to the Secretary's tent with the key where his wife is waiting to feed the baby". What a strange announcement, did the key open the tent or the bottle!!!!!!