

# Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. AUGUST 1983

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## CRANK-UP AND BRING & BUY

What a 'cranking' good evening we had at the Old Down Inn on the 27th June. The weather was kind, the company excellent, good ale, what more could an engineman wish for?

At the last count 15 engines were in attendance - quite an increase on last year; most were popping and banging or purring away merrily, depending on the breed, while the sound of money changing hands and the slurp of descending ale added a satisfactory accompaniment. Oh, on second thoughts, not all popped away. Our President, Tom Randall, ran out of sparks for his Hobbs and had to requisition more. These too appeared to be a little damp but a strong arm and a kindly word finally prevailed. Club Fireman, Eric Brain, has his Fire Engine red Emerson-Brantingham on parade, if you want to know how he earned his new rank, you had better ask him yourself! (Full details in a later Newsletter - when the smoke has cleared a bit....! Ed.). Eric had modified his E.B. with a strategic length of elastic reputedly obtained from a willing Wessex lady; this was to aid the action of the ignitor. The lady in question was not present to confirm the ownership but was said to be still using both hands to hold up her modesty. However, the E.B. was a reluctant starter at this, its first public appearance, perhaps more elastic was needed?

An engine in fine fettle was Derek and Mark Maybee's  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hp Amanco - keep up the good work Mark, we are all cheering for you. Roger Pike and Bernard Petty too had Amancos, of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  and 3 hp respectively, both running well.

Back to the real engines, the Listers that is. Gerald Hoddinott and Dave Ball showed their A-type and tried to convince me that this was their first rally with the Wessex. Judging by the standard of their restoration, hopefully it won't be the last - welcome to the Club. Ivor Cox had his fine D-type purring away as only Lister D's do, while Petters were well represented by Mike Cannon's 5 hp M-type Apple top and Don Roger's 3 hp M-type hooked up to a most efficient lighting set. Still on the Petter theme, we come to the parable of the Foolish Virgin. To provide a load for his very early Petter M-type, Gerald Atherton (surely 'foolish' is not an apt description of Gerald....Ed.) was driving a neat 110 volt generator. Would you believe it; just as the light was failing and his equipment could have really come into its own, he ran out of oil! We trust he will not suffer the same fate as those mythical biblical characters!

Not everyone chose to show engines; Brian Munt, for example, seems to have abandoned the meat processing machinery in favour of the lawn mower business. I wonder if it is to the eternal regret of Mrs. Herbie Gane who now owns Brian's vintage lawn razor and thus has no excuse for letting her grazing rights.

Jackie and Robin Lambert went one better by displaying a toilet seat (used) and on free offer too. One of these mornings I am going to pay a surprise visit to Beechwood Avenue to find out just how they manage without it. Interesting....!

The Bring and Buy part of the evening was well patronised, some of the items offered were easily recognisable, others were jolly useful even if it was difficult to define just what for. A Club gathering would just not be the same without a raffle, but as Herbie was otherwise engaged testing Wendy's new Munt-Mower's suitability on tarmac, Ian Skuse took charge for the night. It was worth watching to see him standing on the top of a SWEB cabinet trying to keep his balance while at the same time juggle with a pot of ale AND try to draw the raffle tickets from another pot. Perhaps he was trying to emulate his Petter which, we hear, had learned a new party trick of summersaulting. Ian finally managed to draw Dorothy Watt's ticket winning her a set of tumblers, Terry Denham, a bottle of wine and Wally Camp an outsize bar of 'nutty' which he promised to share with his wife. A doubt she will report him to the Committee if he reneges on his promise. All in all a very enjoyable evening which, with a little thought, could be repeated at more frequent intervals... PLEASE.

Claude Lowther

Regular readers will notice that the Committee are taking turns to each write up a Monthly Meeting Report. With 13 Committee members, this works out very evenly, the absence of a December meeting is replaced by the Dinner and Dance report.

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## BRISTOL DOCKS RALLY cont.

The June Newsletter contained Eddy May's excellent report of a Rally as seen through the organiser's eyes. Readers will remember that it concluded with the following sentence... 'Finally, something has been nagging at me since the Rally. Reading John Emery's screed about his latest restoration job, it ended with the following sentence... "it has given the owner many hours of oily enjoyment during the winter months'. Come John, what is 'IT'..?'

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As a result of this, the Editor has received the following explanation:-

Dear Sir,

There would seem to be some explanation required from me for my use of the word 'it'. I refer you to the account of the Bristol Docks Rally by Eddy June in Mays Newsletter - or was it May in June - no matter.

'It' as an abbreviation is generally used to describe that well-known Italian beverage usually prefixed by 'gin and', however, 'it' in this case refers to my latest restoration and on numerous occasions could quite well have meant 'Impossible Task', sometimes 'Immeasurably Trying' and at times 'Immensely Testing'. Never was IT 'Infuriatingly Tedious' and always 'Interestingly Therapeutic'.

In the early stages the seemingly 'Insurmountable Transmutation' slowly gave way to 'Initial Transformation', the 'Intricate Tangle' finally blossoming into 'Illustrious Triumph'.

I hope I have explained IT fully. Many thanks to Eddy for bringing this oversight to my attention. Take maximum points for 'Incalculable Talent' and go to the top of the class.

John Emery

On the subject of the Bristol Docks Rally, those entrants who have not yet received their plaques will be pleased to know that although there has been rather more delay than was pre-supposed, they are in the 'pipeline' and will be available shortly.

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HEDDINGTON & STOCKLEY STEAM RALLY, July 2nd & 3rd

Mr. George Hyde, the organiser, welcomed us to this very popular rally early on Friday evening. Saturday dawned and the weather forecast was good. The stationary engine section comprised a substantial number of Wessex members among whom were Robin & Jackie Lambert, Bill and Marg Appleby, Tony Jones, Reg, Mary & Stephen Butler, Sid & Marion Wilson, Roy & Carole Cox, Don & Chris Rogers - and us. Sincere apologies to those I have omitted to mention. W.S.E.C. honorary life member, Bill Foster, could be heard clearly giving a running commentary on events in the ring all afternoon. Sunday was dry, the public came pouring in and during the afternoon the plaques were given out by a lady - Wing Commander Hanbury's wife, accompanied by George Hyde.

At the end of the arena events, Bill Foster presented George Hyde with the slides which were the late property of Harry Champion. It was Harry's wish that George should have them. We shall all miss Harry.

Please note that the Heddington & Stockley Social is on the 15th October.

POOLE NORTH SCOUT TROOP STEAM RALLY, July 9th & 10th

What a marvellous site for a rally! It was adjacent to the quay and a short walk to the shops. We did not arrive until late Saturday afternoon due to a spot of mechanical trouble with the van, were shown where the engine had to be placed, and then directed to our campingspot. After tea, we went for a stroll in Poole; this we repeated on Sunday after our breakfast, when we returned to the engines where was a good attendance of spectators.

We haven't been to this rally for about 6 years so it was no surprise to learn that Andy Barnett, the Stationary Engine Official, was married with a young son. Good luck Andy & Carol.

Len & Rene Fry

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Club Skittles Match at Hilperton, which was to have taken place on October 1st has been postponed.

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FOR SALE

Two Speed Chaff Cutter, hand type by Harrison MacGregor and supplied by the Bristol Wagon Works Co.Ltd., also Bamfords Root Cutter same supplier. For sale, exchange or WHY. Gerald Atherton, Flax Bourton 2393.

Petter M-type, 3 hp, 1929, tank cooled. £120; Lister J-type, 3 hp, 1931, also tank cooled. £80 ono; Both in good working order. 110 volt dynamo, £30 - believed to be from military tank. Tel. Frome 71467

Small two-stroke petrol engine, about 100cc, unknown make close-coupled to a 12 volt dynamo. Requires petrol and water tanks but otherwise complete. Tel. Colyton 53101 (Alan Barratt).

Lawn mower 20" cut, by Automowers, Norton St.Philip, Bath - needs new wooden rollers, powered by Lister engine, air-cooled, £20. Also exhaust box for Lister engine, earth type, needs tidying and a new lid, 2" pipe, £5. Tel.Tiverton 254146 after 7 p.m. please (Mick Long).

WANTED

Calor Gas fridge for caravan, contact David Large, Tel. Clevedon 877816.

SERVICES

Trailer Hire and new trailers made to measure. Contact Ian Cradock, 100a The Knap, Hilperton, Trowbridge. Tel. 62198.

THANKS

Clive Sealey wishes to thank the unknown Club member who responded to his appeal for Petter M-type parts by leaving a starting handle in his tent at the Club's Radstock Rally.  
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The 'Full Quart Crank-Up' 1983 will be held at the Full Quart Inn, Hewish, near Weston-Super-Mare on the A370 on October 2nd.

John Kytes Garden Rally, Market Lavington, Wilts. October 1st

The September Club Rally meeting at the Old Down Inn, Emborough, will be Terry Sanger of Villiers Industrial Engines. September 26th.

The Club Coach Trip, to visit Crofton Beam Engines in steam, will leave the Old Down Inn promptly at 10.00am on November 13th. For those members in the Wilts area, we have arranged a pick-up point at Trowbridge. Car parking facilities have been arranged at Knees car park, Court St., Trowbridge where the Coach will arrive at 10.30am. Please bring a packed lunch. We have also arranged a visit to Wilton Windmill, a recently restored working windmill. Ladies, take note - there are a lot of OPEN STAIRCASES...need I say more! Please give your names AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to Diana Emery, along with the money which is a mere £2 with W.S.E.C. members children under 16 years of age free.

National Vintage Tractor Club two-day ploughing match is at Backwell Hill, Lulsgate on September 10th & 11th. Details from Gerald Atherton, Mill Farm, Station Rd, Flax Bourton.  
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LACKHAM COLLEGE OPEN DAY

This was my first outing of the year; after all this rain let us hope for a fine day. I arrive at the gates of Lackham at around 9.30am; then down that long drive with all those 'sleeping policemen' every 50 yards or so. I was directed onto a lawn-like field; this was where the engines were to be set up, a wonderful site. After unloading and setting up the Lister, a quick polish and fill the water hopper, some petrol in the tank, connect up the lights, tighten up the belt and start up. Now I had time to look around. A red Transit van looked familiar...and the chap standing by. Tony Jones with Reg Butler no less! A quick chat with Tony, had not seen him for a year, and then on with my look around. I could hear some more engine noises coming from a collection of buildings under the trees. This turned out to be the Lackham Museum engines which the students had restored and arranged on a patch of grass. A Victoria 3 hp was running, also a Lister B, Lister D, side shaft Ruston-Hornsby, Wolseley WD and an unknown engine - at least it was to me! All these were running at some time during the day. The clouds soon vanished and the sun shone from a cloudless sky. I made my way back to the Lister, plenty of steam coming out of the water hopper but had to tighten up the belt again.

Mark Tilly was the next Wessex member I recognised. He was exhibiting his 2½ hp Ruston-Hornsby PR which was just being restarted. Bit of a struggle but Mark said his plug was dirty, never saw him clean it though....! Soon the Ruston-Hornsby was running again, all was well. I am sorry that I cannot name all the Wessex members who were present; I hope they accept my apologies. There must have been about thirty engines, mostly Listers of all types and ages. Tony had his Amanco running like a clock. Reg Butler had his Wolseley and pump, also there was one Petter and one open crank Bamford. Time for a final look around at the College, workshops, Rural Home Economics, Laboratories, Craft Exhibition, Horticulture & Forestry. All too soon it was time to load up the Lister and renegotiate that drive again. If all my other rallies this year are as pleasant as this one, then roll on the next one....!

Jim Miller

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THE CLUB'S ANNUAL RALLY, CLANDOWN, Nr. RADSTOCK, 17th July

Friday evening saw the first arrivals to our Club Rally, when about one dozen members pulled onto the field looking all hot and bothered as the temperature soared inside their vehicles, not least Phil Harris whose lorry had been boiling up on the hills.

By Saturday afternoon most exhibitors had got into position with their engines, camping vehicles, tents and caravans; all were still looking hot as there seemed to be no let-up in the sweltering weather conditions. Wessex 'water-frolics' helped to cool quite a few energetic members down at the top of the field, whilst the rest sought the shelter of their vehicles. This was a nice quiet relaxing day until about 8 o'clock when everyone made their way to the marquee for our Social Evening. Here an excellent salad meal was served up to about 125 persons; with the bar doing a roaring trade, this proved to be a very enjoyable get-together. Full credit must go to Diane and her gallant band of helpers for all their hard work, not only in preparing and serving, but also for their juggling

trick to match the quantities of meals to the number of mouths with such accuracy!! The evening came to a close with Chairman Ian thanking the Lions for their hospitality and with Brian Munt's raffle which was a novel variation on the usual; all the prizes being prewrapped. This added to the fun as each winner came forward, picked a 'shape', then had to open it there and then. First ticket out was that of the Lion's President, Mr. Ridout. He won a Country Wine making Kit; next was Jan Ashman, bottle of sherry; Ray Hicks, two mugs; Mrs. Ted Ashman, carwash brush; Reg Butler, Thermometer; Herb Gane, soldering iron; Brian Palmer, a set of Tiddleywinks (these were later re-donated to the youngest person present, who turned out to be our Treasurer's little girl, Stephanie Ashman), Lioness Avis Healey won a can of motor oil, and finally, just to make things fair and equal, our own President Tom Randall won a tow rope kit.

The Lion's President said a few words thanking us for our support and Ian replied wishing them every success the next day.

Sunday dawned, equally hot, now to the serious business of rallying. The Club stall got underway and did a good steady trade all day. It was nice to see once again, so many of our 'far-away' members from Devon, Cornwall and even Andy Mercer all the way from Berwickshire in Scotland. He must have been the farthest travelled and complete with kilt for his own personal air-conditioning too...! Alison never did find out what was underneath... or so we are told! The enclosure had to be lengthened by about 50 meters or so the accommodate the Sunday-only arrivals., and soon everyone was in possession of a judging slip to enable us to most democratically dispose of the traditional annual awards. Eventually all the slips were gathered in and Ian began the presentation of the cups, which were distributed by the President, Tom Randall. The winners were as follows:

Best Engine by a Visitor:	Les Oldridge:	Wallace Glasgow
S.E. Mag. cup, Vertical:	Eric Brain:	Victoria 5 hp
Cranmore Cup, Horizontal:	Philip Harris:	Blackstone
Jun. Shield:	Brian Taylor:	Fairbanks Morse

This was followed by distribution of still more raffle prizes, this time back in the familiar hands of Herbie Gane. Prizes were accorded to Mrs. I. Cox, whisky, Mr. Gale, cuddly toy; John Wheelwright, 5 litres engine oil; Mrs. Bishop, cider; Brian Munt, elephant; Mike Hodgson, talcum powder. Many thanks to Herbie and Brian who ran the raffles over the weekend; we will pretend not to notice how each managed to win something in each others raffles...! (I added that bit only joking...Ed).

Another attraction on the Sunday was the set of Swinging Boats, constructed and brought by Tony and Mike Andrews. This was very popular with the youngsters at only 10p a go, Tony very generously donated his takings to the Lions and our Club. Thank you Tony.

As Sunday drew to a close, another of our rallies ended with a sigh of relief that this had gone so smoothly. It was a new venture for us to 'amalgamate' as it were, with the Lions Family Day. We sincerely hope that we can work along similar lines with them again in the future.

This report was written through the eyes of a member of the organising committee - we would welcome comments from other members and visitors on the day.

Robin and Jackie Lambert

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Overheard at the Club Rally..... A member from Keynsham inspecting another Keynsham member's immaculate Lister D-type pumping unit which was circulating a particularly violent coloured liquid remarked "is it an Elsan recycling machine...?"

and referring to Clive Sealey's much coveted but very noisy Abtus, someone said "why don't we try to sell it to Andrew Mercer, at least it would drown the sound of the bagpipes....!"

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#### FINALLY

Hopefully there will be a full report in next month's Newsletter of the very successful Wessex Garden Party but meanwhile Tony Jones says.....

"Can I say a special Thank-You to all individuals, companies, and exhibitors who helped me make the Wessex Garden Party at 59 Marsh Road, Trowbridge the great success that it was. In fact the total proceeds to the Cancer & Leukaemia in Childhood Trust (CLIC) now stands at £332.25. Once again..... MANY THANKS.