

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1985

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For the benefit of the many newcomers to the Club who may not yet be 'au fait' with its officers, here is a list complete with addresses

- President:** Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Welton, Midsomer Norton, Bath. Tel. Midsomer Norton (0761)418926.
- Chairman:** Robin Lambert, 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somerset. Tel. Frome 63526
- Treasurer:** Jackie Lambert, as above
- Vice-Chairman:** Brian Munt, 41 Gilda Crescent, Whitchurch, Bristol. Tel. Whitchurch 836214.
- Postal Officer:** Claude Lowther, Garthside, Wells Road, Hallatrow, Nr. Bristol. Tel.(0761) (Newsletters) Temple Cloud 52714.
- Raffle:** Herb Gane, 45 Welsford Avenue, Wells, Somerset. Tel. Wells 74402.
- Secretary:** Jane Cannon, 19 Eagle Road, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, Somerset. Tel. Bath 859356 (24 hour answering).
- General Committee:** Michael Cannon, (address & tel. as above)
- Brian Verrall, 2 Norville Place, Lower North Street, Cheddar, Somerset. Tel. Cheddar 743460.
- Bob Hallam, 11 Chalfont Close, Trowbridge, Wilts.
- Ian Skuse, 12 Southlands Way, Congresbury, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Yatton 834943.
- Derek Watts, 108 Spring Hill, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. Tel. Weston-super-Mare 28875.
- Eric Gay, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel. 4374.

We are pleased to welcome to the committee, following Bill Coombs' recent resignation due to a change of work pattern, another lady member, Shirley Gale of 12 Helmdon Road, Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel. 67095.

Newsletter Editor (Ex-Officio)

Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Temple Cloud (0761)52633.

Articles, adverts, etc. are always welcome for the Newsletter to the above address, as early as possible in the month, please, for insertion in that month's edition. Remember it is **YOU** we want to hear from.

Lapel badges and car windscreen stickers, both of high quality, are available from any committee member, Robin Lambert and Brian Verrall, in particular, for the badges, and Brian Munt for the Windscreen Stickers. These motifs depict the Club's Logo of the Wessex Wyvern entwined around a flywheel with five spokes denoting the five counties of Wessex and are reasonably priced at £1 for the badge and 60p for the sticker.

OVERHEARD IN THE LADIES LOO.....!

'These stalls don't half charge - but I suppose you can expect it....! **AND** 'Yes, there's the Tax and the insurance and the petrol for getting here - I suppose it's all for a good cause and we shan't be able to afford it when he retires.

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Thank you 'Castra' for this series of 'gems'; from the general comment of our members this has been a very popular monthly feature. Can you come up with any more? or are the Wessex lady members less chatty in the loo than perhaps they were last rally season!

HAVE YOU remembered the special WSEC event Saturday, October 12th? **BOOK NOW....** before its too late!

AVON VALLEY STEAM ENGINE SOCIETY, Bristol Maritime Centre (Docks!)

This annual event takes place on the dockside between the Industrial Museum and the Great Britain. 20 or more steam locomotives gathered at the docks for the weekend, including Ron Darch's 'Princess Victoria', Gilbey's 'St. Bernard', and Ray Loader's 'Queen of Great Britain'. Also Len Crane with his Fowler Crane, The Abbey Hill Aveling and Porter Roller, Des Penny's 'Mendip Lady' and two models, a 3" scale Burrell and a 4½" scale belonging to T. Heath.

Eight Wessex members took their stationary engines which included a Wolseley, Ruston Hornsby, Blackstone, Bulldog, Duz-Go, Lister J Type, Aster, and an Avon Dragsaw. There are no prizes for fitting Who to What Engine, but I expect you can all guess fairly accurately who was present.

The organisers would like more stationary engines but the space is very limited; most of it is taken up by the steamers. At the end of the engine line up, Eileen Maybee and Evelyn Cox ran a CLIC stall which looked as though it was doing a good trade. As this event is run in conjunction with the nearby Bristol World Wine Fair, there are always plenty of people about with attractions like the raft races and other watersports, stalls set up along the dockside and a spectacular firework display in the evening.

There were a few sharp showers on the Sunday but it stayed fine for the Road Run around the City Centre. Wessex members were invited on this event and most took their place on a large solid wheeled trailer towed by a traction engine. While they all set off, Aster Power (Flower Power!) had its cylinder head and valves removed for a spot of decarbonising in time for the joy-riders return **two hours** later. We were told that they had been seriously delayed while they inspected the floating pub 'Inn of the Quay' and checked for leaks!

At the end of the day, Mike Marsh, the Avon Valley Club's Chairman presented all exhibitors with a 2-handled 'loving cup', what a nice change from a (useless!!) brass plaque - and thanked all who attended for their support.

Frome Rambler

Mr. Plodd at Langport Rally

At around 9.15 p.m. on Saturday July 20th, a police car was seen to pull up outside a Wessex member's caravan at the Langport Rally site. Speculation was rife....! Had the driver of the yellow Datsun been 'clocked' towing his caravan at over 50 m.p.h? Had we at last discovered the whereabouts of the missing Norman engine? Was it a drug-squad raid, porno-movies, no licence for the TV or some such heinous crime? Had escapee Sidney Noble, at that time still on the run, been discovered? The police car stayed some time; neighbouring caravan curtains twitched back and forth.

Truth will always come out - we are told, 'the whole truth and nothing but the truth'; the verdict is 'not guilty'. David and Gwen Large merely had some old friends from nearby Somerton paying them an unexpected visit - in the 'company car'....!

They thoroughly enjoyed Langport Rally and hope their many friends in the WSEC did likewise.

SELWOOD STEAM

The Selwood Steam and Vintage Preservation Club found its demise some years ago; enthusiasts from the early seventies will remember the excellent Vintage workings at Beckington near Frome. Bill Foster, whose daughter, Brenda Gregory, was an erstwhile Hon.Secretary, is hoping to revive the Selwood Club, we hear, and a preliminary meeting has been arranged at the Forrester's Arms, Beckington, From, Somerset on Friday evening, September 13th (The Devil's Birthday!).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Full Quart Crank-Up will be held this year on September 29th at Hewish near Weston-super-Mare. Contact Roy Cox, 4 Laurel Drive, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare for full details.

Yesterday's Farming, the 2-day event of the South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Society Club will be held this year at Eleighwater, near Hornsbury Mill, near Chard, Somerset on 7/8th September. Entry this year is open to all comers so if you havn't collected a form from a Club meeting then send a sae to Brian Crudge, 22 Stoke Road, Taunton, Somerset.

N.Somerset Group NVTEC Rally and Ploughing Match at Backwell Hill, Lulsgate, near Bristol, 7/8th September. Details, entry forms, etc. from Gerald Atherton, The Bungalow, Brinsea Lane, Congresbury, near Bristol.

SOUTH WILTSHIRE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY - Craft & Vintage Working held at Fonthill Park, near Warminster - 1/2 June

For a £1 entrance fee, visitors to this small and friendly gathering had value for money. It was a good chance to look back in time at not just how things were, but how things were done. Hurdle making from start to finish had a captive audience as did spar making, and a 1914 straw making machine, driven by a small stationary engine.

Half a dozen steam locomotives were kept busy with various jobs, including corn milling, rack sawing and driving a portable stone crusher.

About 20 tractors were on display and the commercial section was well attended including a superb Reliant three-wheeled pick-up truck (the model that had a motorcycle's front wheel) and this was restored to perfection.

Many people were looking around the usual stalls and displays and the queue for ice-cream grew longer as the two days of gorgeous sunshine grew hotter.

Some 40 or more stationary engines chuffed and wheezed over the 2 days, many doing the work they were intended for. Next to our engine was a lovely little Gardner made in 1902 with the hot tube ignition. Once started it never faltered and it was interesting to watch the method of starting this engine - getting the tube glowing red hot with a blow lamp before cranking over the engine and when started, lowering the lamp to a different position playing the flame on a different part of the tube. The owner told me that the lamp used more paraffin than the engine. Many well-known makes, Lister, Petter, Amanco, etc. worked all sorts of equipment, but 1985 seems to be the year of the water pump, perhaps because they are usually small and portable to carry around.

To sum up the two days of rallying, a very worthwhile weekend in this splendid part of Wiltshire and many thanks to S.W.A.P.S. for organising it.

F.E.S.C.

RALLY SERENADE

Upon approaching a Club member, who shall remain nameless, at the Market Lavington Rally, on the usual theme of arm-twisting a Rally Report out of him for the Newsletter, the reply came 'I'm no good at writing but I can sing you a song'.

He then burst forth with 'Look at the weather, b-----g weather'. 'It's raining ain't it grand'. 'Look at the coffin, b-----g great handles'. 'Might just as well be dead'!

We were then assured that there were many more verses along similar lines to this but we hastily suggested that if his writing was worse than his singing, then he'd just as well not bother. Strange as it may seem, this member is well renowned for his dislike of music - but the weather **WAS** a bit depressing at times.

(I did eventually get a report of that rally; it just goes to show how difficult it is to get anyone to write one.....! Ed.).

Frome Rambler

MONTHLY MEETINGS

September 30	'Things in people's attics'. A talk by Mr. Oldiss
October 28	'Collecting Dinky toys and other metal miniatures'
November 25	'Maintenance and use of chainsaws'
December 14	Annual Dinner and Dance; again this year by popular request, at the Masonic Hall, Frome, Somerset
January 27	Yet to be arranged
February 24	Annual General Meeting

WILTSHIRE FIRE BRIGADE

The Wiltshire Fire Brigade service recently invited our Chairman and Rally Secretary to their headquarters where they were pleased to announce that, resulting from the Longleat Rally, £15,000 approx. was distributed to various charities. To mark the occasion, the WSEC were presented with a 'Limited Edition' model fire engine.

CLUB EVENTS

COACH TRIP to the Birmingham Museum of Science & Technology. This major event in the WSEC 1985 calendar of events will take place on Saturday, 12th October and will cost £2 a head, adults and children alike, and will be subsidised out of Club funds. Non-WSEC members and members of other preservation groups will be welcomed but will have to pay the non-subsidised price of £3 per head - still a cheap trip! There will be three pick-up points en route, starting at the **Old Down Inn at 8.00 a.m. sharp, Radstock Market 8.20 a.m., and Bath Coach Station at around 8.30 a.m. (NOT the Bus Station).**

This trip will be very heavily subscribed, already names are rolling in, so in order that a second

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coach can be booked and filled economically, please book early. Money **MUST** be in advance please, so send your cheque for the correct amount payable to WSEC and stating your required pick-up point, to Hon.Sec. Jane Cannon, 19 Eagle Road, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, Somerset. Tel.Bath 859536 (24 hour answering)). The closing date is the 30th September but please do not leave it to the last minute and be disappointed. We are arranging to stop at a pub on the way home for bar snacks or a proper meal for those requiring them. (No, not included in the price of the fare...!) and hope to get back around 10.00 p.m. This will be a trip of great interest to all enginemen; Mr. Robinson, the Museum's Director, is welcoming us as a preservation group and will be getting out certain exhibits not normally on view. Photography is allowed subject to the usual conditions after signing a permit at the front desk only; this is normal in these establishments. The Museum has a multitude of engines, machinery, motorcycles, cars, a railway locomotive, beam engine, electronics, radar, etc.,etc., and will need a good three hours to go around. For the Enginewife, the shops are not too far away, but who needs shops with all this lovely stuff to view!! **BOOK NOW.....!**

AUTUMN CRANK-UP

Last year's small Sunday lunchtime gathering at the Old Down Inn proved quite popular, especially as there was a bar extension all afternoon. It is hoped to repeat this event again this year, sometime around mid-November, as last year, to round off the season; perhaps the weather may improve by then.

JULY MONTHLY MEETING

Unfortunately, as sometimes happens even in the best organised circles, we were unable to put on the talk on white-metalling as advertised.

However, after Claude and Marion Lowther had distributed a good proportion of Newsletters, Robin opened the meeting by welcoming Sue and Barrie Thomas, all the way from Truro in Cornwall, and introduced that resident entertainer of ours, Brian Munt, who saved the day by showing us some of his slides. He said they were of rallies he had been to when he started rallying about five years ago, but as he looked a lot younger on some of the slides, I suspect that it was more like ten years ago.

Ivor Cox provided some more slides of Stourpaine including, of course, the mud and some lovely shots of the steamers all lit up at night. Have you ever seen steam rollers trying to roll oozy mud. Robin Lambert next had some slides of this year's Longleat Rally showing, amongst others, Eric Gay's Petter 8 hp M, Ron Torr's model Traction Engine and a close-up of the fine example of Metallock stitch welding on Gerald Atherton's 3 hp Petter. Someone who shall be nameless said that it was the first engine to have a vasectomy, but we don't understand long words like that in the WSEC!! The raffle was performed this month by Brian Verrall (as Herb Gane was still clocking up the kilometers on his tachograph. Eric Brain won some glasses, Cecil Giblett won some spanners, Penny, our landlady and hostess, won some cans of lager and a very pleasant evening was had by one and all. Thanks yet again, especially to Brian Munt for his adroitness at the helm of the projector.

Bill Coombs

FOR SALE

Lister D-type, 1950's, good original condition on metal base with pulley and starting handle. Good working order. Ser.no.5605 DH4. £25. Mr. P.G. Harvey, 29 Uphill Drive, Larkhill, Bath, Somerset.

BOOKS! Hornsby of Grantham 1815-1918 and Ruston Hornsby, Grantham both by Michael Pointer. Sensible priced at £1.20 and £2.10 respectively. Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Welton, Midsomer Norton, Nr.Bath. Tel. (0761)418926.

Wolseley WD11 engine and Lister domestic pump. Pump needs some refurbishing. £50 together. Mr.D.Birkenshaw, 2 Kilve, Dunster Crescent, Weston-super-Mare. Tel 814408.

Everest Double Glazed Storm Porch Door. 4' wide x 7' 4½" high. Aluminium with leaf-pattern effect glass. c/w letter box, lock, aluminium & hardwood frame, screws, etc. L.H.door slides. Bargain at £100 ono. Chris Arnold, Bradford on Avon 6565.

WANTED

Base plate and head for J.A.P.; also small engine in reasonable condition to restore. Contact Mr.J.K.Allen, Westbury (Wilts) 864101.

Cylinder head for 3 hp M-type Petter. Pete Holloway. Tel Ilchester 840370.

Caravan spare wheel, condition of tyre immaterial. Claude Lowther, Temple Cloud (0761)52714.

NOTE. There is a J.A.P. engine in a nettlebed, just inside the gate of Welton Rovers Football ground which looks like it has been abandoned and is part of a mower or something. Worth a call to their Secretary perhaps? Ed.