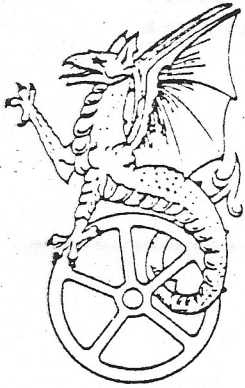


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1988

Editor

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"THE SPANNER"

Could I, on the first issue of the Newsletter under it's new management team make the introductions. I am Claude Lowther and will undertake the Editorial duties, while Mary Butler will be the Typesetter. Robin Lambert will undertake Production. Robert Maxwell will I am sure come to us for advice eventually.... Obviously with so many new brooms there will be changes in style and content of the Newsletter, but the whole object will be to meet the wishes of you, the Member. Unless you indicate to the contrary I will endeavour to produce for each month's Newsletter an editorial entitled "THE SPANNER". Why the spanner you ask - because hopefully it will span all the activities of the Club and its members, and anyway the name seems appropriate. Perhaps I may even include some contentious ideas which, while you may not agree with should provoke discussion.

I have discussed "Policy" with the Officers and Committee who propose that we should continue the popular features. The reports of Club meetings are a must, as are technical items and details of restoration projects. For Sale and Wanted ads. will be continued together with Rally Reports but perhaps with less detail of the reporter's domestic experiences. Details of future Club meetings will be given as well as dates and venues of as many rallies as I am advised off-- but someone has to tell me. Members views are also of interest, so provided there is sufficient response we might have a "Letter to the Editor" column.

The future of the Newsletter however relies on you the contributor. I will do my best in putting it together, although please bear with me for any technical errors, but I must have the information to start with. Members always have new projects in hand, new experiences or possibly an easier way to do things. Please tell me. My address will be shown at the head of each Newsletter, but if circumstances prevent you dropping me a note, give me a ring. The number again in the heading, but if I'm not there Marion is a wonderful secretary.

A word now to Secretaries of other Preservation Societies. Copies of your publications will be gratefully accepted at my home address. Details of your events will then be published to W.S.E.C. members, while the copies will be circulated to the Committee.

I cannot complete my first Spanner without saying thanks to the previous team, Eric Brain, Sylvia and Ivor Yeo put in a tremendous amount of effort sometimes without too much thanks in producing the Newsletter. To have met the deadline once a month for four years or more is no mean feat.

Thank you Eric, Sylvia and Ivor.

Finally..... please don't forget my address or telephone number...

Claude Lowther

RALLY REPORTS

Cheddar '88

Cheddar Rally began for me with a trickle of entry forms from Christmas onwards. Culminating in a grand total of 169 stationary engines, 15 tractors, 19 cars, 22 motorcycles, 9 models and 8 miscellaneous exhibits. With only about 20 of these exhibitors being absent for various reasons, Cheddar Football Ground was packed for a wonderful weekend.

When we arrived on site Friday evening it seemed that all the work was done so that we were able to pitch our tent next to the posh caravans. The children were ecstatic but dire warnings were necessary by 1.30am Saturday as giggling was still being heard through the tent walls.

Saturday morning was warm but windy and fairly busy; exhibitors settled in, trade stands opened up and the Club stall did a roaring trade in carpet bits. Bob was heard to say to a carpet buyer "Oh that's too heavy for you - Jill will carry it" - and she did too. Saturday afternoon flew by; the Football Club did a roaring trade in liquid refreshment and rolls - doesn't it always taste better when reasonably priced.

By evening the barbeque was smoking well and the music was getting going, by the time Murphy our dog had had his walk along the babbling brook - a lovely place for larger children + wellies to play for hours. The burgers, sausages and 9lbs of onions disappeared rapidly amongst the "willing helpers". While the "dancers" pranced around the grass Mrs. Baker and Sue Hedges arrived in bear skins and more bare skin.... Thank you for the tomfoolery and fun you both brought to the evening. I'm only sorry I missed your entrance (always in the wrong place at the wrong time that's me), but maybe next year??? The music was good, the evening balmy and all too soon it was goodnight everyone.

Sunday - the first morning in two weeks I was able to move freely - obviously cider, rum and black could reach parts of my back the Chiropractor and pills could not. Between jobs Clare and I picked strawberries and have since made 28lbs of jam... for those who couldn't get their jam to set be sure to buy Tate & Lyle cane sugar not Silver Spoon best sugar.

It was well into the afternoon before I could wander around the field... the stalls were varied and all reasonably priced. The cars, motorcycles and tractors covered a multitude of shapes, sizes and uses. The model tent supplied by Cheddar Girl Guides was over-flowing with displays, so much so that Wally Camp had to set up a separate display of his own. The lovely old steamer puffed gently away all weekend - a peaceful reassuring sound, like a sleeping dragon. There was a grand selection of engines displayed around the field, some as found, others restored, some newly restored and of all sizes. By this time the car park was close to overflowing but the marshalls managed to fit everyone in.

Our President, Tom Randall, concluded the weekend by thanking our hosts, the Cheddar Football Club, the Cheddar PC for his friendly presence throughout the weekend and made a donation of £100 to the Girl Guides for their Guide Hut Roof Fund. Mrs. Backhouse received a bouquet of fresh flowers as thanks for allowing us to use her field as a car park.

Next came the awards with Ford Bros. of Cheddar receiving the award for the best steam exhibit for their "sleeping dragon". Best motorcycly was won by C. Chipperfield of Wells with his 1921 Triumph H. 4hp, while W. Wilson of Poole won the car award with his Sunbeam Talbot Mk III built in 1956. The best tractor exhibit came from Yate and was owned by D. Sharpe, a 1943 Fordson N Standard. A collection of superb model boats won the model rosette. On to the engines with the Visitors Rosette going to E. Dickens of Holsworthy showing a 1918 Amanco 3 mule team. The best horizontal engine was won by E. Thorne of Bridgwater showing a Blackstone hot bulb of 1922, while the best vertical engine was a Lister J, built in 1921 owned by A. Gale of North Bradley. (that name rings a bell?). The best working engine was judged to be J. Ablett's Ruston Hornsby PT driving a Lister H2 water pump, and last but by no means least Mark Maybee of Blagdon was winner of the best junior engine with his 1921 Crossley.

Finally Herbie's Giant Raffle with the prize winners beign Bill Speake, Mr. Gay, George Fricker, Helen Applegate, Mrs. Hucker, Mrs. Wilson, Nigel Young, Mr. Carter, Mr. Ticknell, Dianne Emery, and Mrs. A. Matthews.

Tom thanked everyone for coming and had a special thank you for all those who had helped to make the event possible. After wishing all a safe journey home the commemoration mugs were distributed and Cheddar Football Club started to return to normality with very little to show for its unusual inhabitants of the weekend 18 & 19 June 1988.

Thank you all for coming, we hope you enjoyed yourselves, if you did see you next year, if you didn't sorry, please try again next year.

Shirley Gale

Draycott Strawberry Fair 11th June 1988

Are you going to the Strawberry Fair?

This was the question put to us in March - June seemed absolutely months away. However time flies and before you could say "Engine Oil" the sun was shining and the day of the Fair had arrived.

Draycott Strawberry Fair is an established local fair. It has all the traditional stalls, Hoop-la, Coconut Shy, White Elephant, Bottle Stall, Cake Stall, Craft Tent, prize winning strawberries to buy and plenty of entertainment for everyone. The Fire Service this year provided a large tender, much to the delight of the children, the Royal Navy flew in a large Sea King helicopter, and of course in the background the sound of Stationary Engines.

Only about a dozen engines were on display, but they were all different. Wolseley, Amanco, Lister and Petter to name but a few, all chuffing and popping away despite a very cold wind - it almost felt like March. There was one Tractor on display, a McCormack, as well asa display of sheep shearing equipment.

For the strong men of the area there was a Truck Pull. (It started off being an 8 ton truck - but on one could move..) They settled for a more modest $\frac{3}{2}$ tonner. Much noise and encouement was to be found with this event.

As a local fair it attracted large crowds and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. At about 5.15 the helicopter took off - the wind created was unbelievable - almost blowing you over, a very impressive and exciting sight.

For a local event Draycott StrawberryFair is fun but if the weather had been warmer I think sun bathing would have been the order of the day.

Hazel & Gerald.

THE HYDAULIC RAM PUMP

Whilst nattering to another Club member the other day, the conversation drifted to ram pumps, one of which he had seen recently but neither he nor I knew how they operated. This prompted some modest research on my part into this delightfully simple device which has the advantage of apparently getting something for nothing.

The pump itself is totally submerged in the bed of a stream or small river with a reasonable flow rate. The inertia in the flow of water actuates the mechanism to pump the water from the stream itself up to a higher level for drinking or cattle watering. The flow rate is very small but it continues unabated for as long as the stream flows.

The Hydraulic ram consists of a cast iron pipe laying in the stream bed with a slight downstream inclination. The upstream end is open except for a strainer, the downstream end is fitted with an upturned elbow containing the main flow valve. Towards this end is fitted a branch with the outlet valve. This outlet has the usual air vessel to relieve the water hammer in the pipework as the valves shut to even the outflow.

The pump operates as follows. Assuming the main valve is open, the stream flow allows water through the pump body and exits via the main valve. Providing the pressure is sufficient, the flow quickly overcomes the weight of the main valve, closing it. The water however cannot stop immediately, and the inertia in the water pushes open the outlet valve relieving the pressure by allowing some water into the outlet pipework. Once the pressure in the pump has equalised, the main flow valve drops once again to restart the cycle. The outlet valve is closed by the head of water above the outlet and by the compressed air in the top half of the pressure vessel.

This is an example of the simple but highly efficient engineering of a by-gone age. The pump of cast iron with bronze valves would have been relatively cheap to produce and install. The critical body length and outlet positioning were all inherent in the manufacturing process, resulting in no user adjustments being required.

Jeremy Adams

WANTED

Small engine to restore - upto 5 hp. Mr. A.J. Harding, 2 Downend Park Road,
Downend, Bristol BS16 5SZ Tel. Bs. 566354

FOR SALE

1960 Fordson Major diesel tractor, good tyres and in working order plus two small trailers - £475 o.n.o.

3½ hp Lister diesel engine and 110 volt generator. In good working order.
"OFFERS"?

Lister 1½hp cylinder head and valves, rocker shaft, pistons and rings, push rods, crank case inspection plate, con rod, oil filter and cap. - £10.00

Saw Blade 30" diameter, good condition - £15.00

Pulleys 8"dia x 2¼" bore, 7"dia x 2" bore, 6"dia x 2" bore. - £2.00 each

20' of 4" Flat drive belt, good condition. - £5.00

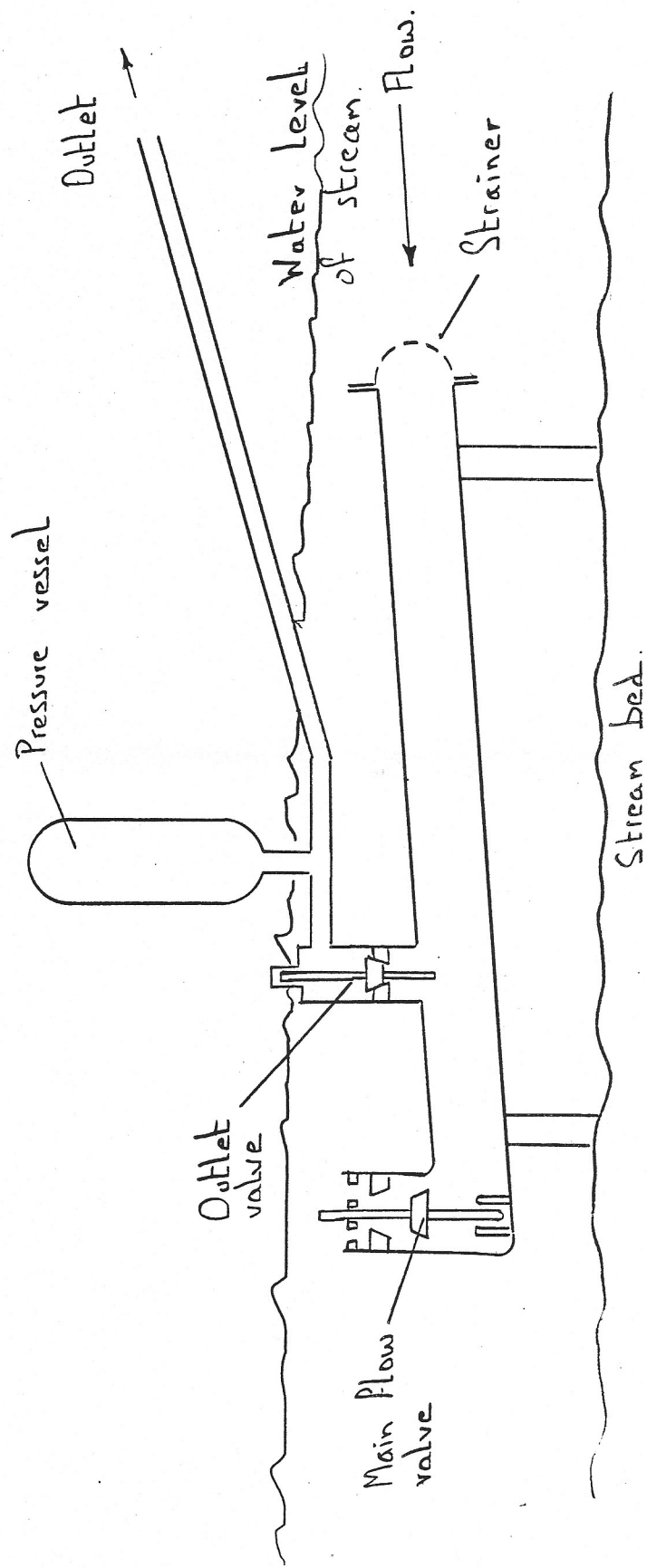
Triumph Dolomite Sprint cylinder head, cam shaft and valves. Good condition.

£30.00 - Brian Hann Telephone Frome 71467

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NEXT CLUB MEETING

22nd August - Members Night - Bring along your photographs and slides etc. Its an evening for Home Grown entertainment. We may even see the Phil Harris way to wear a Topper.....



THE HYDRAULIC RAM PUMP

THE NAT. A. K. A. 1911

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