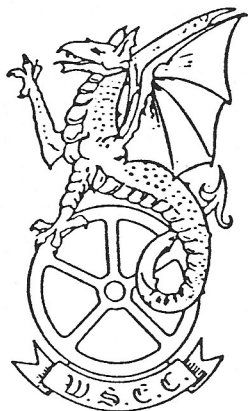


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1997



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EDITORIAL

I know you have heard this many times before, but I really do need more material for the newsletter. This is the time of the year when everything is happening in the rally calendar, with rallies, crank-ups, auctions etc going on continuously. So come on, when you are sat by your engine at the next rally, pick up a pen and write about it, I really would like more auction reports, and reports on rallies and events out of our area, so take up the challenge, surprise me.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What a huge success our July meeting at the Old Down Inn turned out to be, this annual crank-up always seems to attract a good crowd, and this year was no exception. I turned up at 6 pm to set it all up but some members were already there, and some still had their engines running when it was dark. I think Don Rogers was the last to shut his engine off. It really was a brilliant night, with lots of people looking around the engines and other things displayed. The raffle went really well with over £50 going into club funds thanks to Gloria's hard work selling the tickets all evening. One non member who is a regular customer of the Old Down Inn donated a bottle of brandy, thanks Mike. I took my three year old grandson along, that was a mistake, he stands by my van all day now waiting for the next time. I was pleased to see in the editorial of the Stationary Engine Magazine they are going to honour those who have contributed much to the stationary engine movement, and was more than pleased to see Eric Brain's name among them. Well done Eric.

THE MARKET PLACE.

FOR SALE - 1920 FAIRBANKS MORSE 2 6 H.P. LT. ON ORIGINAL TROLLEY. OFFERS.

1926 AMANCO 2½ H.P. LT. OFFERS.

STUART R2 2 STROKE PUMP SET. COMPLETE WITH STUART PUMP ON CAST IRON BASE AND WHEELS. OFFERS.

WOLSELEY WD 11. ON TROLLEY. £65.

LISTER 50 V. DC. DYNAMO COMPLETE WITH REGULATOR, VOLT AND AMMETERS. £50 ONO.

BABY WINNOWER AND GRAIN CLEANER IN WORKING ORDER. ON WHEELS. LOOKS GOOD WHEN WORKING. NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED. NEEDS VARNISHING. RING ALAN ON 01380 830344. (WESTBURY - WILTS. AREA)

FOR SALE - BAILEY MAESTRO CARAVAN. 5 BERTH. VERY STABLE TOW. GOOD TYRES. £250. FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING 01225 754434. TROWBRIDGE AREA.

FOR SALE - 1934 BRIT MARINE ENGINE. (MADE IN BRIDPORT). TWIN CYL. MODEL 6-8. WATER COOLED WITH GEARBOX. IDEAL RESTORATION PROJECT. £100. RING KEITH ON 01460 73712.

EVENTS

SEPT. 13th & 14th - COUNTRYSIDE CAVALCADE. BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND.

SEPT. 20th - BACKWELL STEAM & COUNTRY WORKING. BACKWELL COMMON OFF A370.

There will be very few people in the stationary engine movement who have not heard of, or even met Philip Thornton-Everson. He is Chairman of the Cotswold Oil Engine Club and has been a member of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. for some years now, entertaining us regularly with slide shows of stationary engines and other preserved items. His high quality photographs are a feature of the the front cover of Stationary Engine Magazine and his various articles are most interesting, often with very amusing comments. Philip's work has nothing at all to do with engines; he works in a medical research laboratory and enjoys his free time relaxing at rallies all around the country. An average weekend could find him anywhere from Tatton in the north to Chalkpits in Sussex, from Welland in the Malverns to Northamptonshire or Surrey. He also enjoys some of the smaller one day rallies such as Northleach and, above all, the Full Quart Crank-Up. His poor old Citroen BX turbo diesel now has 150,000 miles on the clock due mainly, as he says 'to travelling too many miles to too many rallies'. He started collecting engines back in 1975 when he acquired a Fowler IPA which he still owns but has developed a liking for the small diesels which are rapidly becoming collectable. He owns or has owned Petter Atomics, S-type, Fowler, Ruston Hornsby, and Gardner. His latest restoration project is a Stuart Turner diesel. All of his exhibits at rallies are immaculately restored, well running and most importantly, they invariably have some information for the public to read. The engine in his collection which gave him the most headaches was the Ransomes 'Wizard' which had to be completely rebuilt and, even then took some patience and understanding to get it to run and run properly. Philip hopes now to have solved the running problems by using modern materials for the fuel cup which is at the heart of the Brons system by which the engine vapourises its fuel. He uses and recommends South Cerney Engineering for some of the more complicated restoration machining as, despite the cost, they seem to have great sympathy with older machinery. Being a bachelor with fewer domestic ties than the average rallygoer, means that Philip has more time to devote to other hobbies as well as engines and photography. He is a licensed radio amateur, and combines his interest in ancient technology with radio communication by collecting early examples of valve radio sets. He takes a keen interest in keep fit, canal restoration and kite flying. Described in the past by those who know him well as 'the stationary engine movement's most eligible bachelor', Philip has been seen to give more than just a passing glance at girls in leather trousers at rallies or even the occasional pink minidress. However, despite the odd sips from the recently prescribed bottle of Phyllosan, any thoughts of romance has totally failed to bring about his demise from the engine scene. May his knowledge of stationary engines and his superb photographs continue to enhance the engine movement for many years to come.

EMERSON BRANTINGHAM. MAY 1997.

OBITUARY.

IT IS WITH MUCH SADNESS I HAVE TO REPORT THE DEATH RECENTLY OF JIM CANNER OF STOKE GIFFORD, BRISTOL. JIM WAS A KEEN WESSEX MEMBER, ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T RALLY ENGINES HIMSELF HE WAS USUALLY THE FIRST TO TURN UP AT OUR CRANK-UPS AT THE OLD DOWN AND AT EVERCREECH. OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO KATE AND FAMILY AT THIS VERY SAD TIME. WE SHALL ALL MISS YOU JIM.

ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENING AND SKITTLE MATCH.

THE ANNUAL SKITTLE MATCH AND SOCIAL EVENING THAT PROVED TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR WILL BE HELD AT THE CHEDDAR FOOTBALL CLUB ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH. AS USUAL THERE WILL BE A PLOUGHMANS TYPE SUPPER LAID ON, AND WE SHALL BE RUNNING OUR USUAL RAFFLE. ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT JACKIE LAMBERT ON FROME 01373 463526, SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO CATER FOR.

SERVICES.

PETROL TANKS, WATER TANKS, OIL TANKS, ENGINE COWLINGS, SPLASH GUARDS, ETC. MADE TO YOUR PATTERN OR DRAWINGS, VERY REASONABLE PRICES, GOOD QUALITY WORKMANSHIP. RING FOR DETAILS ON 01458 210929. (STREET AREA).

FOR SALE - "MANCHESTER MECHANICAL HACKSAW", SINGLE PHASE MOTOR. COULD BE CONVERTED TO BE BELT DRIVE FROM AN ENGINE FOR AN EXHIBIT. IN GOOD WORKING ORDER. £80. RING PAUL ON 01458 445373. (STREET AREA).

CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN - CRANK-UP - MONDAY 28TH JULY.

Arriving on a glorious sunny evening The Old Down crank-up promised to be a successful event. Some 11 engines were in the line up already, and we made 12. I for one was pleased that this evening had arrived, Roger has been restoring a Petter 2 H.P. engine for the last three years on and off. He was determined to rally it at the Old Down crank-up and for the last month he's been out in the shed until 1 a.m. and up again at 6 a.m. to do a bit more. With a little help and many thanks to Brian Baker, Mike Snook, and Don Rogers, who brought it here in the first place, it got restored, and stood in the engine line in fine form. Of course it wasn't only the engine restoration that was against the clock, our old trailer was too small, oh well, make another trailer, Roger made it, the floor was in place but no sides on it, with a borrowed tailboard we loaded up and off we went, good job it wasn't far. The engines spluttered into life around 7 p.m., after yet more arrivals, as one member unloaded his engine in the car park he had a novel way of getting it to the engine line, he pushed it down the slope and stood on the trolley for a ride. Bottoms up, well done Johnny. Ted Phillips arrived with his engine on the back of a tractor, a CS 3 diesel. Club members visiting included Ivor and Evelyn Cox from Clevedon, and Brian and Mary Verrall from Cheddar. Ian Skuse arrived, Arthur Smith and many many more.

I was asked to look after some raffle tickets for a man who was passing, he came from Worthing, but staying in Chilcompton thank goodness. Fred Biggs brought his vintage car which had pride of place on the green. It is a 1937 Morris 8, 2 seater convertible and very beautifully restored. There was a 1937 newspaper in the car which made very interesting reading, the cost? a mere tuppence, those were the days. Club member Dennis Hodges who has recently been very ill came as a visitor, but Brian Baker brought an extra engine and sat Dennis behind it, nice to see you Dennis, keep well. The raffle table was looking good and Gloria was armed with lots of raffle tickets. The winners of the raffle were - Sam Jackson, Andy Gale, Jenny Barnett, Kevin House, Diane Emery's grandchildren, Brian Verrall, Kath, Colin Baker, Colin Busby, Mike Snook, Hank Selway, Linda Pike, Evelyn Cox and Paul Barnett. The evening certainly went well, lots of socializing so I had to drag Roger into the pub for a drink, fumes down my throat of course. The Ladies enjoyed this social event as well, lots of catching up to do, one lady was even sat knitting in the evening sunshine. After the very successful raffle the evening drew to a close. I must say it was one of the best "Crank-Ups" I have been to.

LINDA PIKE.

Linda's report on this crank-up has broken all records because she handed me the report before the event was over, engines were still running and the area was still full of people when she handed it over. I'll try and get this recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. Well done Linda, I wish everyone was as prompt as you. ED.

SCIENCE MUSEUM " NOSTALGIA OPEN DAY" AT WROUGHTON, WILTS - 26TH/27TH JULY.

On Saturday July 26th Brian and myself left Shepton Mallet at 7 a.m. en route for Wroughton and the "Nostalgia" rally. With very little traffic about we arrived at the airfield at 8.30. The engine line was at that time almost full, with many arriving the night before, there was quite a good contingent of Wessex members present. We were not there long before the wind and rain appeared, this lasted most of the day and made conditions for most very uncomfortable, most of the engines remained covered up all day Saturday. This rally being held on a disused airfield meant there was plenty of room for the various exhibits, which included classic cars, motorcycles, tractors, commercial vehicles, stationary engines. Lofty and Jenny Coles were there with their bread baking oven display. Len Baker and John Head from Shepton Mallet with their Scammell Ballast Tractor Unit and showmans living van. There was also lots of trade and autojumble stalls. Due to the atrocious weather we decided to visit the various hangers that are used by the Science Museum in London for overspill storage, these hangers contain various exhibits, many hundreds of them, in the two hangers nearest the rally site was stored mainly aircraft, ranging from very early open cockpit types with fabric fuselage and wings to more modern types including a Trident 3 and a Comet, also a very large collection of various aero engines, both jet and propeller types, together with some rocket types. The next move was to board a double decker bus and travel to the far side of the airfield to another hanger this contained a very large collection of exhibits including two Fowler steam ploughing engines, three steam waggons, many early buses, many early horse drawn carts and carriages, lorries of different makes and ages, pedal cycles, motor cycles, tractors and farm implements etc. This was a very interesting collection which was well worth a visit.

On the Sunday the weather was much better with sunshine all day. With all the engines uncovered and running, and the trade stands and auto jumble stalls uncovered and doing brisk business, it was a different day completely. The ring was occupied most of the day with parades by the various vehicles.

CONT'D OVERLEAF.

The event was well supported by the general public with many thousands of people milling around the place. We had a rather noisy pitch a helicopter was based right by us giving flights to the public, and they were very busy all day. On the Sunday afternoon we were amazed to see a Lancaster bomber flying over our heads, I do not think this was connected with this event though. All in all we had a couple of very good days despite getting wet a few times on the Saturday.

RAY BAKER.

ONE MANS SUMMER - CONTINUED.

COUNTRYSIDE CAVALCADE. SHEPTON MALLET. - This is a good show run in conjunction with the heavy horse championship, so as the name suggests there is something for the young and the old, birds, rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, goats, tortoise, spiders, llamas, ponies, etc, market traders, antiques, horse shoeing, blacksmithing, stationary engines, tractors, commercials, classic cars, vintage cars, motorcycles, and much more, a good enjoyable show with a variety of things to see, unfortunately for engine exhibitors unless you have a camper van camping is not permitted behind your exhibit, so be prepared to get wet if it rains.

BERWICK ST. JOHN, I think everything that can be said about this rally has already been said. Organised by Richard Pocock and Robert Coles of Shaftesbury this bi-annual rally was brilliant, a fantastic turnout by everyone who took part. The weather could not have been better and the public were plentiful with entry to the site by donation which was for charity. Plenty to see and watch, a large display of tractors in various conditions presented by Richard Pocock from his collection. A lovely sight took place in the tractor ploughing section on the Sunday afternoon with about ten tractors ploughing in a line on the hillside, with the sun shining on them it was a real picture and a delight to see. All in all a smashing show, and I for one hope theres more to come.

FULL QUART CRANK-UP. I was very pleased this year to be invited to this years crank-up and accepted with pleasure as I had been led to believe that someone had to drop out or die before the next one on the list got in. We arrived at the Full Quart at lunchtime on the Saturday and were greeted with a very warm welcome indeed from Roy and Ivor Cox who with Don Rogers and their respective families run this prestigious event in aid of C.L.I.C. As they were still in the process of setting up Barb and I went to the watering hole for a pint and a spot of lunch. We both had a ploughmans lunch which was very good, which is more than can be said for the landlord who on first impressions seemed a bit sharp and frosty, and gave the impression that he didn't care if you were there or not, he may have been able to turn the milk sour but thankfully not "Murphys". After lunch we wandered back outside and Roy showed us where he wanted us to park up, we were busy setting up when a few more came in, Mo Duke and John from Tatworth and John and Polly White from Exmouth. We all met at the watering hole in the evening for a few more "Murphys" and an excellent evening meal and another helping of Mr. Frosty. Sunday greeted us with rain but did not deter the hardened rallier, they just kept coming even though it was wet, it wasn't long before the field was full and buzzing with chit chat. It stopped raining about 10.30 but stayed dull and overcast, One by one engines were started and the rally began to come alive and really start to buzz. A lovely well supported event with a varied display of exhibits in attendance. Unfortunately all too soon it was time to pack up as heavy rain hastened the departure of everyone concerned.

Barb and myself would like to convey our thanks to Roy, Ivor and Don and their families through the club newsletter for their invitation to take part in a very worthwhile event and long may it continue. Many thanks for a lovely weekend.

ROUND UP. That concludes our rallying for 1996 which in the main was a most enjoyable season. For some reason we had a few weekends off which we hope to rectify for '97, although I have been to several auctions this year I will leave the reports to you Ed. or maybe there is somebody else out there who can write. Please note comments in my reports are personal opinions and not in anyway intended to be vindictive.

Finally I would like to comment on Novembers "Club Character" Ed Carp. Barb and myself have soundly become, we hope, friends with Ed and Gloria and found them to be enjoyable company and always game for a laugh and thoroughly enjoy their rallying along with their son E.J. and his adorable little fiance Leslie, "Stumpy". We have found them to be very helpful and obliging and justifies my comment of West Country people being warm and friendly and greet us accordingly. Helpful and obliging is the correct phrase as Ed is often left in charge of a certain 4½ hp Ruston. (Alan have you been on the Murphys again? ED). Gloria I understand has been making a good profit for club funds since selling the tickets at the meetings, I also think Ed and Gloria would make good committee members as and when a new committee is elected, I would like it recorded that Alan Vickery propose their names are put forward at the next committee selection.

ALAN VICKERY.

EVENTS SEPT. 28th - FULL QUART CRANK-UP. FULL QUART INN, HEWISH.

SEPT. 29th CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN. TALK BY GERRY BURR - EX POLICEMAN.