

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 1998

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***** EDITORIAL *****

Once again we have news of valuable machinery being stolen. This seems to be on the increase. I can only ask members once again to make sure they have full details of all their exhibits, engine numbers, distinctive details and most important photographs. These details give the police more of a chance of identification and recovery.

***** CHAIRMANS REPORT *****

You will remember some time ago I said in the Newsletter we would like to hold Wessex rallies back in Somerset where they certainly seemed to be more popular with the members. Well at the last committee meeting it was fairly unanimously decided there would be no more rallies at Semington, and we would look for a new site in the Mendip area. Well I am pleased to say we are currently looking at two possible sites, one in Glastonbury, which belongs to a Wessex member and one in Cheddar. I can only hope one of them will prove to be suitable. Watch this space for further news.

What a pleasure to see so many at the July meeting, which was the annual crank-up at the Old Down, a total of 22 engines turned up and the car park was really packed, thanks to all who participated. It has been a long time since we filled a coach for one of our trips but this time our trip to Dingles Steam Village was oversubscribed and we actually had a waiting list, this is rather rewarding for the committee who put in a lot of work and effort in organising these events.

B.J.B.

CRANK-UP AT THE OLD DOWN INN.

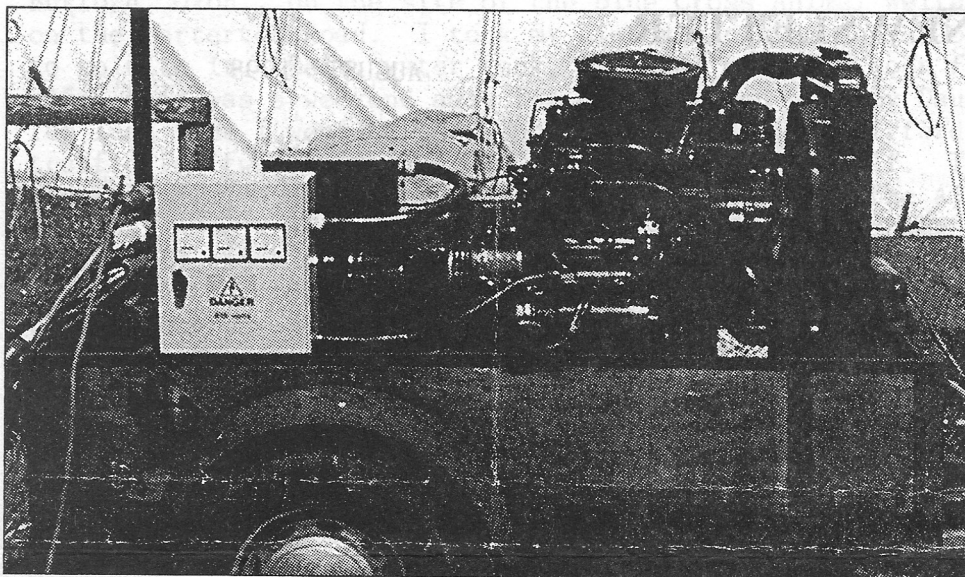
The weather turned out fine for once. There was about 20+ engines on show all in fine working order. We had a good turn out of people looking around. There was a good raffle with about 23 prizes. The engines ranged from Petter, Victor, Listers and many more. There was a wonderful display of petrol cans, spanners, signs and other bits and pieces which are owned by Colin Baker. On show as you entered the car park was an old Morris Minor flower van, 2 motor bikes and a Bedford lorry. There was also a nice gas engine in with other engines.

The raffle was drawn at 9 pm, the winners were Jean - a bottle of Sherry, Rob Armstrong - bottle of Whisky, Wendy Gane - garden tools, Brian Read - fruit, Hank Selway - cans of beer, Gerald Atherton - biscuits, Colin Nicholson - bottles of beer, Alan Rogers - chocolates, Arthur Smith - wine, Reg Butler - wine, Ted Phillips - extension lead, Brian Baker - turkish delight, Ray Baker - wine, Reg Butler - car kit, Simon Nicholson - socks, Geoff Jennings - beer, Gloria Carp - shower gel, Phil Marshall - lager, Gloria Carp - soaps, Colin Busby - soaps, Colin Nicholson - fruit juice, Ray Baker - fruit juice. The name of the doll was drawn tonight. As nobody had guessed the name which was Joy the names which were picked were cut up and put in a hat and Wendy Gane was asked to draw out a name and it was won by Colin Nicholson.

COLIN NICHOLSON.

STOLEN

In the early hours of 7th July 1998



GENERATOR & TRAILER

Belonging to Mr S. J. Bonner of
13 Reading Road, Burghfield Common,
Reading, Berkshire RG7 3PY.

If you have seen or have any information
regarding the stolen items please can you
contact either Reading Police Station
or John Bonner on 0118 983 2820

(2) STOLEN GENERATOR.

Many of you will probably remember the excellent articles that John Bonner wrote for our Newsletter on generators, including how to make a generator from a three phase motor. Well I saw John at the Rushmoor Rally and he told me he has had his generator stolen, it is trailer mounted and was chained and locked on to his van in front of his house, and during the night someone with a large pair of bolt croppers helped themselves to the lot. It's total value to replace will cost John a few thousand pounds. I asked him for details as I was sure Brian would circulate them via our newsletter, John was ahead of me he produced a photo graph which I have passed on to Brian, so keep your eyes open. I don't think the thief would be daft enough to use or display it in its stolen format. John has been a good friend to the Wessex, perhaps now we can help him by keeping our eyes open.

ROBIN.

***** THE MARKET PLACE *****

- FOR SALE - PETTER 'M'. 5 HP. SERIAL NO: 78012. ON TROLLEY. £350.
LISTER 'L'. 5 HP. (1923). SERIAL NO: 27495. ON TROLLEY. £250.
LATHE. ONLY £80. NO TIME WASTERS PLEASE.
RING IAN SKUSE ON 01934 834943. CONGRESBURY AREA.
- WANTED - HEAD GASKET AND EXHAUST FOR LISTER 'D'. RING ROB GARDENER ON 01373 465797
- FREE LOAN - FULL SIZE DRAWING FOR LISTER TWO WHEEL TROLLEY. ADAPTED FROM 1929 DRAWING.
RING TONY ON 01373 464982
- SPECIAL OFFER TO CLUB MEMBERS ONLY. SHARPEN SERVICE ON ALL SAWS, SHEARS, MOWERS, HEDGE CUTTERS ETC AT HALF PRICE. NOT ON T.C.T. OR HAROTTAS.
RING TONY ON 01373 464982 OR BRING TO CLUB MEETINGS FOR QUOTE.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- WANTED. ENGINES FOR WELLOW FLOWER SHOW. 5TH SEPTEMBER. 1.30. RING SHIRLEY BETTS FOR DETAILS ON BATH 833683.
- SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER. FULL QUART CRANK-UP. RING ROY COX ON 01934 419826.
- MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER. CLUB NIGHT. ALAN NEWMAN. SLIDE SHOW. DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE STEAM ENGINE.
- SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER. TENCREST RALLY, NR. OAKHILL. RING ROGER PIKE ON 01761 233028.
- SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER. SOCIAL EVENING AT CHEDDAR FOOTBALL CLUB. 8PM. SKITTLES, RAFFLE, SUPPER ETC.

This show being the second on the site promised to be a really good one as all sections were up on entries from last year. Alas the weather turned for the worse but despite this the field quickly filled and was duly opened by The Mayor of Highbridge & Burnham. The enthusiasm was great with everyone in high spirits. During the Saturday afternoon Brian Baker carried out a lively auction as the rain fell. The evening saw a full bar and energetic girations to a disco. Sunday dawned and it was apparent that the show could not go on. By 10 am it had been announced that everyone could pack up. This done, everyone was helped out by a few tractor owners who braved the very muddy conditions with their exhibits. There was however a down side to the auction, for in the sale was a Fordson Major/Super Major workshop repair manual. This was sold, picked up but not paid for. It appears there is someone 'out there' who can't be trusted and I hope that every time he uses this book his conscience is pricked.

BRIAN LOVELL.

WEST DORSET CLUB SHOW AT WEST BAY 13/14TH JUNE.

Once again preparations were well in hand when I arrived on Friday. Good entries in all sections proved there to be great enthusiasm despite the threat of rain. During Saturday morning an auction of some 500 lots took place in pouring rain. This cleared in the afternoon and brought in a good attendance. The evenings entertainment was good followed by a great raffle with what appeared to be prizes for everyone. Overnight it rained very hard leaving the field very wet. When it was time to go home help was at hand by a handful of tractor owners to assist the exhibitors who could not get out by themselves. I say thank you to those who did the towing so responsibly. Don't give up West Dorset it will be better next year.

BRIAN LOVELL.

RUSHMOOR STEAM & VINTAGE SHOW 25TH/26TH JULY.

How nice it was to be back at the Rushmoor Arena once again, many exhibitors thought that as the last show was in 1995, with a two year gap it may never take place again, but I'm sure that when this years entry forms dropped through their letter boxes, they were returned post haste as to exhibit here is in my opinion most enjoyable.

The Stationary Engine steward here is Patrick Knight who if you have never met him you will most certainly have seen his excellent photographs and articles in The Stationary Engine Magazine. On checking in with Pat you are free to choose your own engine location in any one of the three large pens, camping is in a beautiful woodland area that looks down onto the huge rally field, again you choose your own spot. This year the rally was slightly scaled down perhaps because it clashed with Netley Marsh and perhaps exhibitors thought there would be no more rallies here, and went elsewhere, but scaled down or not there was plenty to see.

Details from the free programme were as follows:- 91 stationary engines, 59 tractors, 64 motor bikes, 76 cars, 74 commercial vehicles, 111 military vehicles, 9 organs, 27 full size steam engines and 25 model engines - 36 displays in the model tent, so lots on the field to look at. Also scattered around the field was an old fashioned fairground, craft tent, lots of fast food stalls, beer tent, and of course the usual Saturday night entertainment with Penny Rigdens can can girls!!! A Punch & Judy show to keep the little ones entertained as did the rare breeds sheep tent.

Quite a few Wessex members exhibit here and took along a nice selection of engines which included a 1920 Delco-Light, 2 hp International, Fairbanks Bulldog, 6 hp International, 2½ hp Amanco and in the model tent club member Reuben Smith displayed his collection of 2" scale ploughs, and amongst the large steam engines club member Phil Tracy had his 1901 Aveling & Porter Roller, (sorry I never got to see you Phil but I'm sure I will catch up with you sometime during the year). The auto jumble was in its usual place on the terraced slopes and although it was mainly car bits there is always the odd things to interest me tucked in there somewhere.

The show seemed fairly well attended by the paying public as the weather was very summery except for a small amount of drizzle late on Sunday. I hope this didn't put anyone off visiting the show as I'm sure every penny received will be put to good use, and who knows perhaps another show next year. Many thanks to W.S.E.C. member Patrick for a super weekend.

ROBIN LAMBERT.

NEW MEMBER - A warm welcome is extended to Mr. I. Thompson from Somerton, Somerset.

Dear Editor,
 I visited Wychwood District Vintage Country Show July 18th/19th. This is situated near Burford, Oxon., on the site of the Blue Cross Animal Welfare which is just outside Burford on the Carterton Road. I took my Lister a/c 1934 and a Godwin water pump with all parts to go with it. Belt, water tank, two fuel cans, it soon filled up the car, no room for wife, this was a weekend away for me (I stayed with my Daughter in Burford, no D.W.E.) The last time I went to this show it clashed with Fairford Air Show and I was stuck in traffic for two hours, and did about a mile and a half. This year this was not going to happen again, a new route was planned, but no need, the Air Show had moved its date so all was well - no traffic jam, this by the way is approaching Lechlade. On arriving at the show field which is behind the Blue Cross buildings I found my way to the stationary engine lines, there were about 4 of these and almost 200 engines, and set up my engine and pump, the weather was still dry, surprise, surprise. After fuelling the Lister with paraffin, lining up the pump belt, fill up with water the engine and pump, all was set to start up, not many about so I delayed this and had a walk around the Show, the field is typical Cotswold, the stone is only just below the surface so it dries out rapidly, so it was clean underfoot. There were lots of car boots and stalls for the ladies to peruse, a vintage sale was held on the Saturday, lots of things here, engines, wheels, lawn mowers, boxes of things unknown, bits of tractors and other oddments; I am not a sale man myself so I passed on to other things.

Motorcycles there were 39 of, these dating from 1911, a Royal Enfield, to the sixties a good cross section of the bikes of this era. There were 19 commercials all looking good in their gleaming paint work, these ranged from 1937 up to the 1960's. The tractors, all the well known makes were present plus a few rarer beasts such as a Gunsmith 1948, British Anzario 1938 and a Titan. The cars, there were 81 of these ranging from 1933 up to 1978. The Motor cycles, cars and tractors all paraded in the main ring on Saturday and Sunday. Now back to the stationary engines, these were some nice engines here, and some unusual ones, a Fielding & Platt 12½ hp 1922, running like a clock on the two days, a twin Fowler of 14½ hp 1937, a 6 hp Fowler 1938, these two came from Exeter, I had not seen the like of these before, another Fowler was radiator cooled the owner said he thought is was probably the sole survivor of its type 6 hp 1937. The largest engine was a Crossley 1924 13½ hp, this machine was by my engine and was easier to start than my Lister, one pull after the lamp had done its work and away it went. Philip T/E was there with his Petter 'M' 5 hp 1931 driving a water pump, all this equipment was up to Philips usual high standard of restoration, the Petter sounded great, had a real bark to the exhaust, and Philip was seen with the dreaded Petter spots on face, neck and coat!! Of course this was pointed out to me, the answer 'You can't have a Petter without a few spots'. There was a nice pair of Deutz engines, one of 4 hp and one of 2 hp. These engine men had come from far and wide to this show, Milton Keynes, Cambridge, Newbury, Northampton, Swansea and Bristol, not bad for a once small show is it?

My engine ran well for the weekend and the weather was fine, it was a bit windy at times. All too soon it was Sunday evening and time to load up the trailer and car and head for home, it had been two pleasant days spent with new friends and old, I will be returning again next year all being well. Hope this is of some use to you Ed.

JIM MILLER, CHISELDON.

WICK RALLY - SUNDAY 12TH JULY.

What you may ask is 'what is someone doing writing about a rally they never attended', well there has to be a first and its going to be me. I almost got there, in fact I went by the rally field on Saturday evening on route to Chipping Sodbury with Bill to play skittles and we both said what a nice location for such an event, the sun was going down and you could imagine what a nice day Sunday would be, but we never heard the weather forecast, torrential rain struck during the night and it was still pouring on Sunday morning, I had loaded up the steam engine at 6.30 a.m., rang Bill at 7.30 a.m. and said what do you think? Perhaps it would ease off a bit later on we decided and stayed put. By mid morning it was obvious that there was to be no let up and we decided not to go, as in our minds was our own Semington Rally and if we did go we would probably be another problem for the organisers to drag out of the field if conditions were bad. Well I am told this was more or less what happened, the event was called off at mid-day and a lot of exhibitors had to be towed from the field. What a shame for Bill and I it was to be our first time at Wick and we were both very much looking forward to it.

Our apologies to the organisers, including John and Kevin, sorry we let you down but perhaps in the long run you were better off without us.

ROBIN.