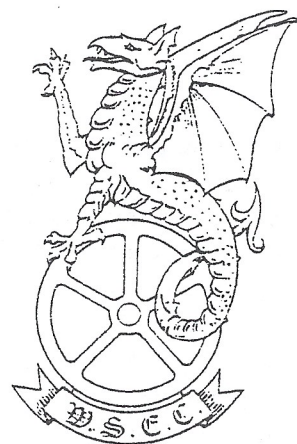


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

**AUGUST 2004**

*The Editor : Brian Baker  
27 Wickham Way  
SHEPTON MALLET  
Somerset BA4 5YG  
Tel: 01749 342671*

## **NEWSLETTER**



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### **\*\*\*\*\* EDITORIAL \*\*\*\*\***

In my opinion Stationary Engines have always been very undervalued compared to other preservation collectibles like cars, motorcycles etc. I have recently restored a 6hp Petter 'M'. I had to make a new trolley and box for the water tank to sit on and the wood for this cost me over £60, and this was softwood and not hard wood. The stain and varnish was another £15. The engine was completely stripped of paint and repainted in 2 pack undercoat and 2 pack gloss, the paint, undercoat, thinners and hardener cost over £50. The only other major cost was to have the magneto overhauled which cost another £80. We are now looking at over £200 pounds without taking into account the value of the engine and the ironwork for the trolley. So you can see what I am getting at, engines should be worth more than they are currently making in auctions and through adverts. Some of the stationary engine enthusiasts would rather they stayed at a low price to make the hobby available to a wide range of people, but personally I think they should command a price in keeping with their age and scarcity. B.J.B.

### **\*\*\*\*\* CHAIRMANS REPORT \*\*\*\*\***

I was really pleased to see a good turnout for the crank-up at the Court Hotel on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The selection of engines on display were first class, and with a very nice Morris Eight and a BSA twin in the background the car park looked full of interesting machinery, well done members, you done us proud. We had a competition for the best restored and the most unusual engine, these were won by Phil Riley with his Turmot and Monahan and Brian Taylor with his superb ¾ hp Stuart, well done to both of you, don't forget to bring the cups back next year when you will have the chance to win them again. The Court Hotel is an ideal venue for this sort of event because they have a very good bar with good real ale and really good sized ham and salad rolls, young Oliver managed to eat two of those, it costs me a fortune to take him and Henry out, but as Oliver pointed out to me one day "well I am a junior member." As I type this newsletter it is only three days to the rally at Clutton and it is pouring with rain outside, I sincerely hope the weather will drastically improve by Friday. We had a brilliant workforce turn up on Monday night, and for the first time ever we had the rally field set up and ready for business by nine o'clock. I would like to personally thank all of you who turned up and did such sterling work, I will not name you or I am bound to forget someone, but once again on behalf of the club a thousand thanks. B.J.B.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>** Cheddar Valley Preservation Club. Winchester Farm Cheddar. Crank-up – Sortout – Bootsale. 8am start. All pitches £5. Buyers £1. Contact Colin for information on 01934 743411.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>** Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Autumn Sortout at Cranmore Railway Station. Pitches only £5. Buyers £1. Turn out your junk and turn it into cash, don't forget "one man's trash is another man's treasure". For details ring 01749 342671.

## **STAPEHILL ABBEY STEAM WEEKEND**

### **10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> JULY**

"There is a rally at Stapehill near Wimborne this weekend," Arthur announced. Bill Appleby was to take his Victoria, possibly the oldest known, but unfortunately he is not well enough to attend so Arthur offered to take it for him, after looking at the weather forecast I decided I would go with him on the Sunday. Arthur met up with Robin and Jackie plus their two grandchildren Bradley and Jade in Frome on Saturday at 8.00 am arriving at the rally site at 9-30 with three Victorias between them, the weather on Saturday turned out to be sunny all day. When I arrived with Arthur at the rally site on Sunday I was surprised by the quality of the engine display, there were 9 Victoria's in our group, the remainder of the engine display comprised of 9 Blackstone's, 3 Hornsby's, 6 Ruston and Hornsby's, 1 Hornby Ackroyd, 1 Weyman & Co, 1 Pool Oil Engine, 2 JEH Andrews (Stockport), 1 National Gas, 1 Tangye, 1 Loughborough College Engine, 1 Ronaldson Bros and Tippet, 1 Vertical Hot Tube Cambell from Australia exhibited by an Australian complete with bush hat, 2 International Harvesters, 3 Bamfords, 1 Godiva oil engine, 2 Petters and 4 Listers. Most of the larger engines dated from the 1890's. These were not the usual lawn mower type, some of the larger engines were unloaded by crane. There were Traction engines giving rides on trailers, I pointed out to Robin that the last time the four of us were given a ride in a trailer pulled by a traction engine was at a show near Taranaki in New Zealand, there were 15 miniature steamers driven by younger enthusiasts, a gypsy encampment and various rural displays around the display field, in another field there was a tractor ploughing match, and model steam boats on a lake near the house. The Abbey which for 200 years was a place of quiet retreat for a order of Trappist Nuns, was open for visitors where one could stroll around the early 19 century building visiting the chapel, living and dining quarters. You could also see the parlour, kitchen and washroom. There were various craftspeople demonstrating a wide variety of traditional skills in numerous craft shops scattered around the large building. The Country Side Museum had a large display of farming and other associated bygones, this was very well laid out and described, they even had one of the oldest Lister L types known, out side you could visit the 'hands on' farm yard with lots of animals to amuse the children, including facilities to wash your hands afterwards. There were large ornamental gardens to wander around , including a Japanese style water garden. Apart from the steam rally it would have been an interesting day out, but I have to admit that the engine display was one of the best that I have seen, really interesting engines. As this was a by invitation only rally, I hope we are invited to attend next year. Wessex members exhibiting were, Arthur and myself, Robin and Jackie, Kevin and Carol Phillips, Brian Reed, John and Ed Thorne, some faces from S.E.M. were Patrick Knight, Tim Macaire, & Nigel MacBurnley. Sorry if I left anyone out. It's a pity we never had the club banner, but we made use of the club rally sign advertising the Clutton rally, this has been beautifully made up and sign written by Tony Davis.

**LIZ.**

**CARAVAN FOR SALE** Sprite Alpine Caravan. 1985. 2Berth. In very good condition. Including Porch Awning and all accessories. Ideal first caravan. Ready to rally. £700. Ring Frank on 01275 877816 for further details . Clevedon Area

### **DAVID EDGINGTONS NEW BOOK**

#### **"THE STORY OF THE LISTER 'D' TYPE"**

**55 GLOSSY PAGES FROM THE 1<sup>st</sup> LISTER PRODUCED TO THE END OF PRODUCTION IN 1964**

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**SEND YOUR REMITTANCE TO LODGE WOOD FARM, HAWKERIDGE, WESTBURY, WILTSHIRE. BA13 4LA**

**CRANK-UP at the COURT HOTEL CHILCOMPTON**  
**MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2004**

After torrential rain at this event last year, it seemed as if this year was to be cursed with the same, but thankfully it turned out to be a dry summers evening. I have always thought that this event is more of a social event than a true crank-up, and this was evident in the feel of the event, and the numbers of people just stood around talking. The 19 engines were crammed into the car-park of the Court Hotel and as awards are given for Best Restored and Most Unusual, the engines and machinery seemed to be even more varied than usual, with some excellent restorations. These included the American import Stover type K of 1920 owned by R G Lodge, exhibited driving an X-CEEDAL raisin stoner, the Lacock Engineering Co 701/1 pump owned by Tony Davis, which spent it's working life as a high pressure vehicle washer, and the Petter Junior Safety Oil Engine of 1920 owned by E J Gay. I usually come down on the side of restoration in the great "restore it or leave it as it is" debate, which seems to come up again and again, but the United 1 ½ hp exhibited by K and C Phillips in un-restored condition has convinced me that both sides have their merits. Some, of course, have to push the boundaries by exhibiting models of engines, nice though they were! Also attracting attention was a 1964 Villiers MR25HS generating set, driving a 1.8 kVA BKB alternator. As I have said, the event was more of a social event than a crank-up, and at one point, we even had who I presume was the hotel boss looking around, although it must be said, he looked slightly amused at the whole idea! The draw was held at 9pm with around 30 prizes. Before the raffle was drawn, the winners were announced and the cups presented by our chairman with a dazzling smile. Best restored went to Brian Taylor for his ¾ Stuart Turner 600 gas engine of around 1935, and the most unusual to Phil Riley for his 1 ½ Turmot and Monahan of 1915. Turmot and Monahan went out of business in 1919 after only a few years of production, so this is something unusual and worth looking out for on the rally field. Once again, a most enjoyable event, with a good atmosphere and some interesting engines. I for one would certainly like to have a few more evening crank-ups in the future

**JONATHON HOCKEDY**  
**JUNIOR REPORTER**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** Crank-up and Car Boot Sale at Holcombe Playing Field. All types of vehicles welcome. Boot stalls wanted. This event replaces the crank-ups at Brian Fears Garage. Proceeds go to CLIC. For further details ring Tony Davis on 01373 464982.

\* **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>** CRANKS AT THE SHIP **CANCELLED** Gillingham. Ring Ian Skuse on 01934 834943 for details and to book your entry.

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER** SOMERLEAZE CRANK UP. At Wookey Farm Shop, Wookey Nr Wells Tractors, Commercial, Cars, Motorcycles, Stationary Engines, Car Boot Stalls all welcome. Farm Shop open BBQ. For further details ring Steve on 079321 55772.

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>** Club Night at the Old Down Inn. Guest speaker James Fussell. A talk and slide show on FUSSELLS OF MELLIS. The usual raffle for club funds.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>** Skittles, Social and Supper Evening at Butler & Tanners Social Club Frome. There is a Fish & Chip or Chicken & Chip supper available at a very modest cost. Please ring Tony or Diana with your order if you intend coming as we need to know your requirements in advance. We shall have the usual grand raffle.

**CLUB SHOP** POLO SHIRTS with club logo on. Only £8 each. These can be sent mail order @ £8 plus £1 post and packing. Sizes M. L. XL. Colour navy blue. Make cheques payable to WSEC Ltd. Send to Diana Davis, "Ourome" 12 Charles Road, Frome, Somerset BA11 1NT.

## THE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO

I sometimes enter competitions, not those difficult ones in National papers and magazines where you have to submit a witty slogan to sell some boring product, but simple ones in our local papers where the answers to the question posed is included in the description of the prize. A few weeks ago there was a competition in our weekly paper for complimentary tickets to the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairfield. I told the occupant of the neighbouring armchair, knowing he had an interest in aeroplanes, having done his National Service in the RAF, usual half listening reply, 'have a go', not adding but no doubt thinking, as long as I don't have to put pen to paper! Two weeks later a list of prize winners appeared, listing a Mrs Saunders as a winner, living in our road. A few days later a letter arrived, I had won two tickets, they had got the name right this time. Now the worrying started, I had never been to a Air Tattoo, it was going to be very noisy, long traffic queues to get to the car parks, thousands of people, long day, miles to walk, how would we cope? We decided to go on the Sunday, and when we watched the local TV news on Saturday they were very positive about the colour coded routes that were sign posted as there had not been long queues to get into the area. We set off at 7am armed with newly purchased ear defenders, picnic and bottles of water, warm fleeces, waterproofs, sun hats etc. We picked up the signs at Malmesbury and we were in traffic, but it moved along at a good pace with very little delay so that we were parked and walking towards the entrance by 8-30am. An excitement awaited me, a full body search by one of the relatively young soldiers on security duty, disappointment – it was only a sweep with some electronic gadget. We were given a map of the show ground to help us find our way around all the exhibits. As the flying didn't start until 10 o'clock we started looking at the great variety of static displays. The Ministry of defence had a large marquee with exhibits depicting past major military events and present commitments. They gave us a competition when we entered, the answers were all in the displays, and I won a small purse wallet. Now I am looking for a competition with a cash prize to use the purse. The flying displays started and we hurriedly put on our ear defenders as the noise, at times was unbearable without protection. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the C 130, better known to us as the Hercules. The first prototype was flown in August 1954 from Burbank, California. The RAF ordered 24 aircraft in February 1965. We saw about 19 aircraft in the display, brought there by various Air Forces with the largest numbers from the USA. U.S.A.F. Air National Guard have a unit who fly ski equipped LC130's, one of which was on display. USAF Reserve Command had several aircraft there and we spoke to one airman who told us they were surprised to be there as they don't usually go to air shows. He was enjoying his first visit to England, he had done 'The London Thing' the day before. His fellow crew members were in their picnic chairs, up on top of the body of the aircraft, watching the flying display. What a versatile aircraft. The flying display continued until 6 o'clock, which included magnificent aerobatic flying by large fighter planes. There were several display teams flying but the one that drew the largest crowds to the viewing lawns was our own Red Arrows, they were superb, as usual they were followed by a World War 2 flying tableau depicting the RAF's roll in supporting the D Day landings. Such a pleasant engine sound from Spitfire's and Lancasters after all the jet noise! Parachute drops by two teams finished the airborne entertainment then it was over to the Central Band of the RAF for a concert and fireworks. As we left the airfield at about 8-30pm, we realised we had been walking about for the best part of twelve hours, the time had flown by! There was so much to do, and to see on the ground and in the air. I know very little about aeroplanes, I can recognise a Hercules, as they often fly low and slow over Trowbridge, and of course the Red Arrows, which we have seen a number of times, but I still had a marvellous day at Fairford.

MARGARET SIMMONS

### ||||| SMILING |||||

*Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too  
I passed around the corner and someone saw me grin  
When he smiled, I realised, I'd passed it on to him  
I thought about that smile and realised it's worth  
A single smile like mine, could travel round the earth  
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected  
Lets start an epidemic QUICK, and get the world infected.*