

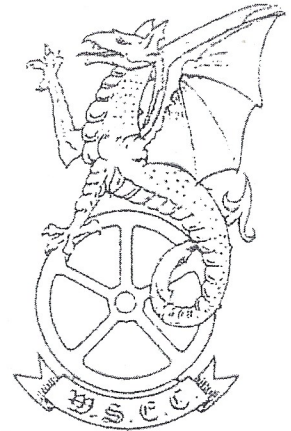
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## **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

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## **NEWSLETTER**

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### **EDITORIAL**

My usual request for members to help set up the rally on the Monday evening before the rally was once again answered with a very good turn out of about thirty willing workers. In about two hours all the stakes were in, the ropes were up, and the rally was ready to roll. Many, many thanks to all who participated, you were magnificent. The same happened on the Sunday afternoon, members worked really hard, dismantled and loaded everything into the trailer which was taken back to the farm yard for storage. Well done everyone. Thank you all very much.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Crank-Up at the Court Hotel was rather spoilt by heavy rain, this is after we had endured weeks of sweltering hot weather which sometimes was too much to bear. Despite this we had a good turn out of engines. The Hotel was doing a good trade with food and drink, and the wet weather didn't stop the members enjoying themselves. Due to the rain we held the raffle in the Hotel, with lots of prizes on offer. All in all another successful event despite the weather. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August saw about 30 members assembled at the rally field to set it up for the following weekend. What a willing workforce – thank you all, in about two hours it was all set up ready for the rally the following weekend. Saturday saw a dry day (thank God) for the rally. The field soon filled up with exhibits, including a splendid working area, (Eric's idea). A good line up of tractors, cars, commercials, motor cycles were on display, and of course stationary engines of all makes, sizes and shapes around the perimeter of the field. The evening barbeque was a resounding success, due to a very blustery wind we held it in Cluttons tea tent. Hazel and Gerald Atherton were doing sterling work slaving over a hot barbeque all evening, with Jackie and Andrea serving the hungry members with their hotdogs and burgers. Martin was serving the beer and cider, I don't know why he always like to be near those barrels? The beer and cider seemed to be very popular with the members, who seem to prefer to just sit around and natter and socialise. We had a brief spell of entertainment with Oliver playing his guitar, he has only been playing for a few months, not bad for a ten year old. He was certainly pleased with the applause he received. On the Sunday it was Auction time. This time we never had so many lots as last year so it made my job much easier, also for Jackie who sorts out the finances, and Andrea who is the auctioneers clerk. In the afternoon members started to dismantle all the kit they had erected on the previous Monday, the stakes ropes etc were all loaded back into the trailer which was returned to the farm yard until it is required again next year. It was a brilliant effort by the members who helped with the clear up. Thank you all very much.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Mr & Mrs John Rogers of Thornbury, Bristol. John has been looking after our website for some time, and has now kindly offered to host it. Wessex Stationary Engine Club can be found on, [www.tramwater.co.uk](http://www.tramwater.co.uk) We hope John's membership will be a long and happy one.



**WEST BAY (BRIDPORT) RALLY. Saturday & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

This was a special event this year for the West Dorset Vintage Tractor and Stationary Engine Club as it celebrated it's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I can recall this club's early rallies that were once held at Looke Farm, Puncknowle not far from Swyre way back in the late 1970's. Last winter I was working in the area and I had a walk across the old rally field and what memories came flooding back, too many to mention, but it was nice to have been part of that scene and the new friendships that were made still remain to this very day, but enough of this remonising and back to West Bay.

I have never seen so many stationary engines here before, over 250 this year, I think that the organisers were taken aback by this number, most were there for the 2 days with only a few one day only's. for those who haven't attended this show before the show field is almost an island located next to West Bay Harbour a more beautiful setting would be hard to find.

All the usual exhibits were here, motorcycles, vintage cars & commercials, several giant Scammell Army recovery trucks, and a huge stall section to keep the browsers happy. An auction took place on the Saturday morning with a few hundred lots of all descriptions including tools and spares if you can name it, it was here. A lot of WSEC member exhibit here, some even make a week of it by finding campsites close by and pulling into the show on the Thursday.

The Barnes brothers from Poole, brought along a few large unusual engines, including an Andrews and a Hornsby, they run so nice and are impeccably restored. John & Ed Thorne exhibited their Robinson hot air engine, but I think they were having difficulties with speed control as blustery gusts of wind affected the gas burner making the engine speed up. Club member Les Ricketts had his 4hp Ruston & Hornsby model AP which ran quite well for a while then proved problematic with several small faults that needed sorting two of which was an exhaust valve sticking in it's guide and a magneto that required resetting up to maximise it's spark and after some on the spot maintenance it was soon up and running again.

Friday & Saturday evening had entertainment in the beer tent but for some of us it was a stroll around the new harbour in the warm evening breeze followed by a bag of chips on our way back to the caravan, not bad stuff this rallying, I could get used to it

ROBIN

**<<<<<<<<<<<<< DATES FOR YOUR DIARY >>>>>>>>>>>>>**

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER.** A Barbeque and Social Event at Fred Bigg's field, (next to the Court Hotel Chilcompton). An afternoon and evening event, a barbeque will be lit where you can bring and cook your own food, steaks sausages burgers etc, in fact anything. Various forms of entertainment will be going on including skittles etc. A raffle will be held, prizes will be most welcome. The event last year which was only in the evening was an outstanding success, so turn up with your food and drink and have a really good time and enjoy Fred's wonderful hospitality.

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER.** Camerton Engine Crank Up and Car Boot Sale. At Camerton Village Hall off the B3115. In aid of Babes Big Appeal, fund raising for the Childrens Hospice Southwest. For further details ring Tony on 01373 464982. A raffle will take place for the fund, prizes will be most welcome.

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER.** Crank – Up at Summerleaze Farm Shop, Wookey, Nr Wells. This is a splendid event put on by Wessex member Steve Baker. The well stocked Farm Shop will be open. Food will be available. A raffle will take place. This is the event that attracted members from as far away as Wales. Cars, Commercials, Tractors etc will be very welcome. For further details ring Steve on 01749 679515.

**MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER.** Club night at the Old Down Inn. Guest Speaker is Colin Baker who is giving us a digital presentation of Stationary engines. This is of photographs of stationary engines at events around the area taken with a digital camera, then downloaded onto a DVD disc and then shown on a larger than normal screen with the latest digital projector from the DVD disc, all clever stuff. The usual raffle will take place, prizes would be appreciated.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>.** The Annual Skittles and Supper at Butler and Tanner's Social Club Frome.  
Further details will be in the next newsletter



**THE BRISTOL & SOUTH GLOUCESTER STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB**  
**VINTAGE RALLY & COUNTRY FAYRE – FROG LANE FARM COALPIT HEATH**  
**BRISTOL SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY**

I must admit that I never walked around as much as I would have liked to because of the searing heat with next to no breeze, the temperatures were unbearable and everyone had their brollies up for shade and hats were the order of the day even the children looked hot and bothered except when by the ice-cream van.

Class & Brian Munt took along their organ to provide an old time musical atmosphere and it was nice to see past WSEC president and founder club member Eric Brain walking around with his camera. It was also nice to have a chat with John Rogers, rally organiser who has kindly offered to run the Wessex web site along with his own web site. John had been temporarily running the site for us since Eric retired from Bath University whilst we were looking for a web site host.

ROBIN

<<<<<<<<<<<< THE MARKET PLACE >>>>>>>>>>>>

Pair of cast iron legs for Atlas 10F lathe. Genuine Atlas make, very rare. £100.

For further details on any of the above ring Richard on 01934 517322.

**FOR SALE** Petter PAZ1 Diesel engine. 1967. £150. ono. Lister Water Pump. £60 ono. Stewart Marine engine £100. ono. For further details or viewing ring Mrs H Mercer on 01747 855389. Shaftesbury area.

## OBITUARIES

The club is extremely sorry to hear of the death of long serving member Anthony ( Tony ) Taylor of Baltonsborough, formerly of Glastonbury. Tony passed peacefully away at West Mendip Community Hospital, Glastonbury on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2006. The club would like to offer sincere sympathy and condolences to Tony's wife, Doreen and their family. Tony exhibited a large, beautifully restored Blackstone engine at our events, and he will be missed by all who knew him. I bought one of my first engines from Tony, A Lister L that I still have in my collection.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Viv Rendell, who with her late husband Fred could often be seen displaying their engines in the Dorset – Wiltshire – Somerset areas. Viv and Fred were members of the W.S.E.C. and our thoughts go out to Viv's family at this sad time.

We are sorry to hear to hear of the passing of Mr I. Jones of Easterton, Nr Devizes. Mr Jones has been a member for a number of years. Our sympathy goes to his wife and family.



## 22nd Annual 1000 Engine Rally, 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> June, Astle Park, Cheshire

This is probably one of the longest distances I travel to an event, approximately 180 miles and 4½ hours journey but I know that from the moment I arrive at this venue the adrenalin will start to flow.

I also know from past experiences here that I am in for an enjoyable time, I very much like the friendly atmosphere created by the organisers from the reception on arrival at the park entrance to the engine stewards, everything is designed for us exhibitors to enjoy what we like doing most, it's also handy to be able to choose where you set up your display and keep a space for your friends enabling you to have a good look around the show and leave someone in charge of your engine and then you can do the same for them. A novel way of bringing the engine water around is via a giant airfield Carmichael Fire Engine which is a most interesting exhibit in it's own right.

This year there was well over 400 engines here in half a dozen roped off pens (no metal crowd barriers here to mar the publics view). Most makes and models were well represented here except for one that I was looking out for this being a Stuart P55 twin lighting plant, but never mind.

The Five Counties Vintage Machinery Organisation Ltd which run this event has their usual club tent and area set aside for 'items for sale' which was well supported, the outside compound had lots of engines and equipment on offer including a 5hp B.W & C.Wks Victoria which I thought was over priced at £1250.00 but very nice for the seller if he can get it. Inside the club tent hundreds of items on offer from magnetos, spare engine parts, old hand books and magazines, tools, fuel cans, and an old Geryk Air Pump this brought back memories for me as I once had two of these and they do make interesting exhibits.

On Saturday evening as on other years buses left the field for The Anson Museum at Poynton. You have to book your seat on the coaches and I was told that this was all sold out by 10.30am which shows what a popular trip this is. If you have never been to the Anson Museum before do try and make the effort as it must now have one of Europe's biggest collection of stationary engines. The curator Geoff Challinor with the help of teams of volunteers had many of the engines up and running and one that I would like to have took back home with me was a 2½hp Furnival Gas Engine that was driving a printing press, it ran so nice and quiet with its exhaust piped outside the building all we can hear was a clicking of valves opening and closing with a slight whoosh of the piston on each stroke. Many of the engines displayed here were manufactured in and around the Midlands including Tangye, Bates & Scholes, National Gas, Gardner, Ruston and Crossley. A new star attraction this year was an atmospheric engine that spent it's working life in Bristol. It's a single cylinder vertical engine that stands approximately 12 ft high, with it's flywheels high up above the machine, a shot of gas is injected into the ground level cylinder then ignited sending the piston upwards, attached to the top of the piston is a long toothed rack which flies out of the upper most part of the engine and engages with a ratchet on it's way back down which in turn rotates the shaft holding the flywheels. All rather complicated but very interesting to look at.

We usually stay on after the rally and take a weeks holiday to justify the long distance travelled but this year we could only spare three days so we left the caravan at home and found a Travel Lodge not too far away from the rally site, this worked quite well. To sum up, a great weekend, well worth the long journey as I am sure a lot of Wessex members who also made this trip would agree.

ROBIN

<<<<<<<<<<<<<CRANK - UP AT THE COURT HOTEL >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

After weeks of a sweltering heat wave it had to rain again on the Court crank-up. Despite the weather a good selection of engines turned up including member John Leek who came all the way from Hereford to display a very nice Witt engine. That is what you call enthusiasm. Henry and Oliver had their models on display. Fred Biggs had his very nice Morris Eight, Robin came on his BSA Gold Flash, all in all we had quite a nice turnout. I asked Jonathon Hockedy, our junior reporter to look at the engines to pick out the most unusual engine and the best restored on display, when we compared notes we had both chosen the same two. The most unusual engine best restored on display, when we compared notes we had both chosen the same two. The most unusual engine was a 1910 ELLIS belonging to Nigel Scourse from Athelney, and the best restored was a Petter Apple Top belonging to Geoff Davis from Glastonbury. Because of the wet weather I held the raffle in the hotel, after which the members dispersed for home. B.J.B.