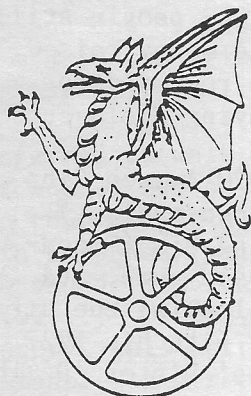


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1993

Please send newsletter material to:-

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SEASONS GREETINGS

OUR CHAIRMAN BRIAN AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR
MEMBERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN IN 1994.

'VINTAGE WEEKEND' at The Tropical Bird Gardens - Rode on the 18/19th September.

This was my first time as an exhibitor at this two year old event and after setting up our old 5hp Victoria and helping Bill with his 8hp Ruston, I, at this stage had no idea what a delightful weekend was in store, not just for me but for all who took part. The Tropical Bird Gardens is unique, it is privately owned and is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of one of the world's most beautiful creatures - the birds. There are 17 acres of very attractive woodlands, lawns, terraces, tree lined walks and paddocks which house some of the most exotic and colourful birds I have ever seen, a small area is set aside for a few animals which included goats, sheep, pony, rabbits etc., they are very popular with young children, as they can stroke and pat the pets.

In the centre of the park a 7½" gauge railway takes visitors around over ½ a mile of track and is a very novel way of seeing even more of what is on offer here, as it is a bit hard on the legs to cover everything on foot. The superb steam locomotives pull several carriages and would probably convey 30 passengers each time. An attractive station is where the trip starts and much detail has been put into making things look right, including platforms, mini enamel signs, hanging flower baskets and of course the station clock for all to see. This particular weekend had private engine owners, who were invited to bring along their engines to run on the track in between the regular service, some were steam and some electric and all was expertly controlled by proper signalling arrangements. Several model traction engines were in attendance, most being 2½/3" scale and looked really grand as they slowly crept around the lawns and paths in gorgeous sunshine.

A nice cross section of exhibits were invited to attend this event and most were situated on a grassed area that was surrounded by a 12ft high yew hedge (quite possibly many years ago it could have been the Manors' market garden). Approximately 25 stationary engines, a handful of tractors and vintage cars and a dozen or so motorbikes were tactfully placed as were two showmans engines and a road roller. WSEC members Mike & Iris Roberts had their 'Leason' vintage caravan on show complete with period gramophone music, a very nice exhibit is this as it causes great interest in particular with all the by-gones they have collected to make it look very cosy.

The camping area was one field removed from the exhibits which did justice to this event as to have caravans and campers mingled with the exhibits would have ruined the whole thing. A barbeque was laid on for the exhibitors and their families in the garden restaurant on Saturday evening and on Sunday all who attended were saying what a nice evening they all had. To sum up then, well done to Dave Austin who with helper Eddie Gore organised this super weekend. I'm sure enjoyed by all and will no doubt be talked about for some time.

UFFINGTON WHITE HORSE SHOW - 29/30th August 1993.

Uffington is situated in the Vale of the White Horse and lies between Swindon and Wantage. Like many shows held on the August Bank Holiday last year they were badly affected by one of the wettest and windiest weekends on record. But despite this 10,000 people still braved the weather and supported this event. It is nice to be told where the money raised at shows goes, in this case, the St. John Ambulance, Scouts and A.T.C. were rewarded for their help at the show. Grants totalling £2,200 went to the Day Centre, Playing Field Fund, Playgroup, Pensioners' Club and Baulking Church.

The Club was well represented with the President Eric Brain with his 1920 Amanco 2½hp 'hired Man'. (A note from Philip - the Club President managed to start his own engine.) Dave Clack exhibited his 1936 Bamford 2hp. Philip Thornton-Evison was showing his immaculately restored Fowler 1DM - 6hp - Diesel - 1937, driving a Worthington-Simpson pump. (A note from Jim Miller - Philips' engine stopped on the Sunday due to polish blocking the air vent on the fuel tank - must be over polished). Richard Lambert was present with his 1927 Fuller & Johnson 2hp. Reg Butler was also there with his Fowler and Stephens' Lister 'D' 1hp. Jim Miller was also there showing his 1944 Wolseley WD1. Other engines I liked were a Bamford 8hp - Diesel - 1930's, a 1929 Lister 'A' type, a nice small 1937 Stuart Turner 1½hp lighting set for domestic lighting, a Lister 'L' type - 1927, a Petter 'M' apple top, a nice Ruston Hornsby 5hp, a Lister 1937 CS diesel - 3½hp, a 1928 Bamford 5hp with a lovely sounding thump. One other I must give a mention to and that is a 1930's Bolton and Paul - 3hp, it has just been restored.

The show also boasts several marquees full of crafts and many stalls outside. You could spend the whole day watching the many arena events, Falconry, Motorcycle Display Team, Pathfinders Dog Display, Axe Racing Team - what speed - they can come and chop my firewood any day. The list of events goes on Field Gun Competition, City of Coventry Corps of Drums (Sunday), Band of the Scots Guards (Monday), Red Devils Parachute Display Team and finally the Toyota Aerobatics.

The Devil's Horsemen Jousting was something I had never seen before at a show and I would think a lot more people had not either as they drew a very large crowd who were encouraged to cheer Harry Hotspur and boo and hiss at the Black Knight. They put on a very entertaining display.

Outside of the arena events you could relax and listen to Cricklade Band or watch the Morris Men. Also taking place was a heavy horse show.

Unfortunately its now the end to another enjoyable weekend. (A note from Eric - Philip says the return springs on the Ladies loo doors would make a good return spring for an Amanco.) How does he know????

MARY BUTLER.

CLUB MEETING - SLIDE SHOW BY :-PHILIP THORNTON-EVISON.

When I arrived at The Old Down Inn the room was already filling up with members, all keen to see what new slides Philip had brought along for us.

Brian got the evening under way by announcing that the committee had call an extraordinary general meeting of the club to take place on the 25th October. The next piece of news concerned the rally at The Full Quart, Hewish, Nr. Weston-Super-Mare, it was again a great success, raising a large sum of money in aid of CLIC with money raised not only at The Full Quart but from collecting boxes and from the Mendip Crank-Up organised by Bill Coombs, again a very successful event for the Wessex Stationary Engine Club, keep up the good work Bill as I am sure we all appreciate what you do to get the Mendip Crank-Up up and running.

After Brian had introduced Philip we settled down to a most enjoyable evening. The slides covered a most remarkable range of engines, from Lister D types to Blackstones. Not only engines appeared over the course of the evening some of the slides depicted a large well pump Philip had discovered only a short distance from his home, laying derelict in an old pump house on a farm. It would appear to have been driven by an early lamp start engine (alas no longer there) for found amongst the dust, rubbish and spiders was the remains of a blow lamp and earth silencer. Although the pump could not be removed, a Lister B type tank cooled engine was recovered complete with mouse happily living in the tool box.

Half time we refilled our glasses and then it was time for the raffle, my chief helper won a prize - well done Gloria - and our President went home with a bedtime story book (how are you getting on with Mobby Dick, Eric). When I had managed to calm everyone down after such excitement we returned to Philip for some more excellent pictures and commentary, how Philip remembers where they are all taken and the detailed information on most of the engines and other vintage exhibits I shall never know. It must take a great deal of time and effort to collate all the slides and write up all the information.

I should like to express the thanks of the members and committee to Philip for another most entertaining and interesting evening.

ERIC J. GAY.

COACH TRIP - BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM, DUDLEY - Sunday August 15th.

We set out at 7.30 prompt from the Old Down at Emborough, made our way to Bristol and on to the M5 and headed North for Dudley, stopping for a coffee on route, plus the odd doughnut and one or two were tucking into a hearty breakfast. As we headed on towards Birmingham it started to drizzle, we thought we were in for a repeat performance of our last trip to the museum when it rained for most of the day, but we were lucky it passed and the day was fine. We finally reached the Black Country Museum around 10.20am and began our tour. Some preferred to walk down to the 'village' but we thought we would take the trolley bus, dropping off one or two at the mine which was a new feature to us. Whilst down the mine a part of the tour was at a coal face that was about to be blown up with explosives and to our amazement this happened (well almost). A simulated explosion took place with bright white flashes and the thunderous roar caught us all by surprise and one lady said she actually felt the earth move!!!! On leaving the mine we passed the tilted cottage originally built during the 19th century, this cottage fell victim to subsidence caused by local mining. The cottage was dismantled and reconstructed at the museum and even has pigs and hens penned of in the garden which caused a lot of interest especially amongst the children. Once off the bus we approached the 'Village' via the wrought iron Canal Bridge which was moved from its original site in Wolverhampton to the museum.

The first shop to visit was the sweet shop where we were able to sample cherry drops, all these sweets are made purely from sugar, water and glucose, with added flavours of all descriptions. Then on to the glass engraver, he had some nice items for sale. The H. Gregory General Store was very interesting and the lady inside very jolly and having a bit of fun with a young lad whose gran had said that she would buy him some shorts and out the lady came with these old fully lined grey wool trousers complete with enormous braces attached, there was no way that he was going to have them even when offered that he could pay at the rate of 1d per week.

As we went to cross the road down came this lovely red car, it was a "Bean" !!!! I had never heard of it before but apparently it was made by A. Harper Sons & Bean of Dudley and there is still a firm called Bean Industries who either bought out or went in with Reliant and are now making cars again. A visit was also made to J. Wiltshire - Pawnbroker, where a gentleman told us lots of stories and showed us the ledger of transactions, so that we could see how they did their bookwork and kept a record of all the things people pawned and perhaps bought back when they had the money. He also told us that when some people went away they would often take their belongings to the pawnbroker as it was safer to do this than leave valueable items in the house, the pawnbroker would have been insured for fire and theft, but not for moth or mould!! The first reconstructed house I went into had a lovely fire going and the lady was cooking bacon and sausages in a Dutch oven (It was the shape of a Dutch woman's hat) and was placed in front of the fire with the bacon and sausage hanging from hooks, an egg could also be cooked in the base part which collected the dripping fat. She also had prepared a piece of lamb which she was going to put on a meat 'Jack' (this is wound up and then rotates in front of the fire so cooking on all sides. Another house that we visited also had a meat Jack and Dutch oven doing its job and the lady of this house was making a rhubarb tart, and she told us that she and her husband lived in this house for a weekend once a month, and lived as they would have lived all those years ago. I think we struck lucky with the date we chose for our visit as there were quite a few of these interesting demonstrations going on. Unfortunately the Newcomen engine was not working, neither were the chainmaking, nailmaking, metal rolling or forging areas.

The H. Emile Doo Chemist & Druggist had a good selection of drugs and potions, also perfumes like Devon Violets and Night Scented Stock. Canal Street Hardware was very interesting too originally Nash's of Oldbury. When they closed down it was rebuilt at the Museum with Nash's donating all the counters and shelving and a great deal of the goods from the old shop. (They had a bird cage in there for 9/6d (if you are still looking Bill)). In the heart of the village stood the Chapel and right opposite the Bottle and Glass Pub who incidentally sells a very good shandy. We then made our way for a Canal trip, then after that had to make our way back via St. James School. The school mistress was in attendance and invited the public to attend a class, we only watched from the partition, gladly as she seemed very strict. It was suggested by one of our naughtier club members that we (the whole bus load) should have gone to her class together to give her some hassle. We also passed by the fairground they have installed there which I could not remember seeing the last time.

Sadly 4 o'clock was upon us so we had to go back to our coach for the return journey and hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves, we certainly did especially at dinner time when we went to the Stables Cafe for our faggots, chips and mushy peas - lovely and well worth a visit. We arrived back at the Old Down Inn before dark and one member was heard to say 'Where are we going next week'.

(4)
WESSEX WORD SEARCH.

P S T S A I S U H T N E H N I E C L A C
A T N C E N C A W I J G L O F R O C A O
N A H N R W R Y N O K A P O W Y M V O M
N T H O T E R R H C O T O I N E P H N M
E I B T N T E E L N S N W R I N R D L I
O O A D T D C A P T I I E R O F E A Y T
C N R M N O N O M P S V L I B E S I W T
C A R I L O A C B O O H L S A E S T H E
G R L E I R R A Z T Q H H E R A I Y H E
E Y T T L A W E S S E X L I K I O C Y O
C E A O B I T O C T I L H N E H N G R F
E N I S L R O C G H E W R E R S N E E U
C G D E U L A O R S M R S W N A R E N A
N I O E O G N D L A A O M S T O E O I E
A N S T D E G L F U M L N L Y T B C H G
R E S T O R A T I O N E G E F T B A C N
U J H I D T S T R Y R S R T D I E T A I
S R E W N T K S A O L D R T R K W F M R
N W A E G R E J U O C D R E L W O F A P
I G B H A R T O P S E V I R D T F A H S

All you have to do is find the list of words hidden in the grid. The words can run in any direction, up, down, backwards, forwards, horizontally or diagonally.

WESSEX✓	STATIONARY ENGINE✓
FOWLER✓	KELVIN
OIL✓	GARDNER
SHAFT DRIVE✓	HOPPER
POWELL✓	COMMITTEE✓
GASKET✓	ASTER
COMPRESSION✓	SPRING
BARKER✓	BENTALL
VINTAGE✓	RESTORATION✓
LION✓	WEBBER
ENTHUSIASTS	HARTOP✓
STOVER	NEWSLETTER
COBORN	TANGYE
INSURANCE	ACME
BRADFORD	NATIONAL
CYLINDER	GLASGOW
WITTE	MACHINERY

THERE IS ONE WORD IN THE GRID THAT HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE LIST - SEE IF YOU CAN FIND IT.

SEND YOUR ANSWER ON A POSTCARD TO:-

Mrs. Mary Butler,
152 Wyke Road,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire.
BA14 7NT.

THE WINNER WILL BE PICKED AFTER THE CLOSING
DATE:- 22ND JANUARY 1994.

PRIZE - PRIZE - PRIZE - PRIZE

FREE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 1994

(Your money will be refunded if you have already paid,)

Once again another year has passed us by and for me it was a most enjoyable one as I hope it was for all of our members. Once again, as happened last year, many letters and messages of thanks were conveyed to our club for the support we gave to numerous events that all helped to raise money for so many good causes, all made possible by yourselves by taking along an exhibit or perhaps purchasing a raffle ticket or making a donation - well done to you all.

Many thanks to everyone who has sent me an article, rally report, a for sale ad. or an event date, every word you wrote was much appreciated. My thanks to Jackie for her patience in typing up the newsletter proof and to the other two ladies in my life - Mary Butler who does the final typing job of getting it all nice and presentable for the printer and sometimes trying to fit a quart into a pint pot, and Margaret Appleby who sees that you all get a copy (she actually sends out over 2000 copies a year and in 1993 two or three went missing - we blame the Post Office) and not forgetting Bill who licks all the stamps, perhaps he should get a beer allowance to remove the glue from his tongue!!! Looking forward to seeing and hearing from you all in 1994.

YOUR STILL TEMPORARY EDITOR ROB.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions are due on January 1st and to make the book keeping easier all subs. should be in by the last day of February, when we hope to have finalised the move to a Limited Co. Also bearing in mind that unless you are a joined up member as from the 31st December 1993 you would not be insured through the Wessex S.E.C. Please can everyone rejoining accompany their payment with the enclosed slip, for whether posting it or paying at a meeting and sign in the appropriate place, (TWO SIGNATURES IF JOINT) Thanking you for your co-operation on this matter.

TREASURER.

JANUARY CLUB MEETING - An illustrated talk by Keith Evans on the Westonzoyland Pumping Station.