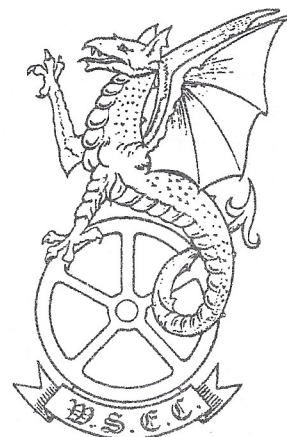


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

**DECEMBER
2001**

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

NEWSLETTER



Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. All rights reserved

*******EDITORIAL*******

THE CHAIRMAN AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS AND READERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AT THE CLUB EVENTS IN THE NEW YEAR.

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

With very few events held this year due to the foot and mouth restrictions the Wessex Crank-Ups have been really well supported. The crank-up at Nunney Catch on the 2nd December had the usual large entry of engines of all sizes and makes. The café was doing a good trade in hot breakfasts and roast lunches. I would like to offer sincere thanks to Gordon and Jackie for allowing us to use their premises for our events, as without a doubt this is the best site we have ever had. Thanks to the generosity of the Wessex members we had the largest raffle ever, with over sixty prizes on offer, and thanks to Leslie Nicholson who braved the cold weather all day selling the tickets the raffle realised over £100 profit for club funds, well done Leslie. With one more crank up to come at Ston Easton on the 27th that will complete the Wessex programme for this year. I look forward to seeing you all again in the coming new year. **A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL.**

B. J. B.

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

FOR SALE TRAILER 5 x 3. RUSTON HORNSBY 1.5 hp MODEL PT. IN WORKING ORDER ON TROLLEY. 110v GENERATOR. PULLEY ADAPTOR FOR DRIVING FLEXY DRIVE. FLEXY DRIVE. THE LOT FOR £ 200. RING PETE ON 01934 516606. WESTON SUPER MARE AREA.

FOR SALE PETTER AIR COOLED ENGINE. 2hp. £30. WOLSELEY WD ON WHEELS, WITH CLIMAX WATER PUMP, £30. LISTER "D" 1 ½ hp WITH SHALLOW WELL LISTER H2 WATER PUMP. £120. WISCONSIN 3 X 3 ½ MADE IN THE USA MODEL AENL. £60. RING FRED ON 01749 860644. GILLINGHAM AREA.

FOR SALE PEGSON WATER PUMP ON BARROW TYPE TROLLEY £30. LISTER DOMESTIC WATER PUMP ON BASE WITH TANK. £55. SMALL 2 STROKE ROTAVATOR, OLD AND UNUSUAL £10. RING AFTER 6pm ON 0797 4660949. GLASTONBURY AREA.

WANTED. FERGUSON TE20 2 FURROW PLOUGH AND ONE CENTRE HEADLIGHT. RING COLIN ON 01934 743411. MORNINGS ONLY.

*****CLAY MILLS PUMPING STATION*****

I thought I would let you have a bit of an update on the goings on at Clay Mills – a large pumping station near Burton on Trent. Gerald and I have spent time (whenever possible) helping the hard working volunteers to get the large Gimson Engine into steam. We were invited up for the inaugural steaming of this wonderful engine back in the spring of 2000. We had taken our little caravan up so we were able to stay on site. I should mention that there is a main railway line which runs immediately in front of the site, with a level crossing complete with warning lights and sounds. Fortunately most of the trains stop running around midnight over a weekend, but when they are working on the line, along with the resident “smell” and countless mosquitos (having a sewerage / water treatment works) next door is not what most people would consider an ideal camping environment. It is interesting – however, the engine is the thing and you easily get used to the noise and the smells. We were awakened at about 8.30 with a large klaxon horn being thrust through the caravan window and blown – this was in case we had overslept – not a hope. Clay Mills is a very large group of buildings just outside Burton on Trent. Clay Mills was designed originally to pump the sewer of Burton on Trent town, away from the valuable water supply of the Trent River (needed for the brewing industry) out to the Clay Mills area where it could be treated. There are four enormous beam engines, A, B, which are in a more dilapidated state and C, D, which the volunteers have been working on. C engine is getting almost fully restored with a huge flywheel measuring some 24 feet in diameter and the beam close on 30 feet long, it is a somewhat impressive sight. The whole building is vast, with great flights of spiral staircases and working floors made up of latticed ironwork, which gives you an interesting view of the four floors below. There are five Lancashire boilers which were used to supply the engines. One has been completely restored and has now been steam tested at least twice. I have to say that when testing is in progress and the valve is lifting at 80 lbs pressure there is steam and coal smoke everywhere. The steam and smells create a special atmosphere. The main working boiler is a wonderful piece of machinery. It has two large hoppers which have to be filled with coal which then drops down and is “spun” into the boiler itself. The hoppers are some 9 feet off the ground and it takes a little skill to shovel coal from the ground level into the hoppers. When the boiler is in steam and the engine is running a hopper full of coal lasts approximately 10 minutes. So with two hoppers per boiler, and a minimum of two boilers running when the whole system was working, one boiler man did not get a great deal of free time. Gerald and I have both helped out with the boilers and I have to admit that the thrill of lighting the huge 25 foot long Lancashire boiler from scratch and then getting it up to steaming pressure – takes between 2-3 hours, and is hard work but wonderfully satisfying. It takes both considerable effort and a keen eye to shovel the coal up into these hoppers – however, once you have swept up all your miss-shots a few times you find a sort of rhythm and shovelling becomes easier. You have to continually rake the fire to dislodge clinker and to get an even burn with no “dead” spots. As the rakes for these boilers are some 12 feet in length you need a fair amount of space. The Beam Engine itself is without doubt a wonderful piece of engineering. When in steam it has its own sound and runs smoothly. However the whole building vibrates when the engine reaches the bottom of the stroke and it is not hard to imagine what it must have been like when there were two of these monsters working at the same time. The Engine house is about 50 feet from top to bottom and the flooring is cast iron plates in a latticework design. When you first go to the top Beam Engine floor and look down through the flooring plates some 40 feet below it is a rather disconcerting sight – walking on it does get easier as time goes by. The whole site is being restored. One of the most recent restoration projects has been the workshop. The main boilers supplied all the power for some 25 other working engines on the site. Gradually all these engines are being brought back to Clay Mills from museums etc. There is a huge Massey steam hammer. A large lathe with a bed of 30 feet (10 yards long, honest) somewhat larger than most of our members can get in their sheds, all driven from varying countershafts by a Vernon and Guest single cylinder vertical steam engine positioned in the corner of the workshop. It has been lovingly restored and when seen working it is poetry in motion. Outside of the boiler house there is a special Buxton and Thornley boiler feed pump which has been (finally) retrieved from the Bass museum. This lovely engine has a sound all of its own and is used to pump water into the boiler to maintain the water level. The Bass Museum has been housing a large number of items which originally came from Clay Mills. They have been reluctant to return some of them but now the site has become more of an attraction they

CONTINUED OVER

have had to give in and return some items. Wherever you look around the site there are little puffs of steam issuing from various buildings and the sound of engines and belting moving and working. The whole place takes on a life of its own. Having been visiting Clay Mills almost from the very beginning it is a great pleasure to see the whole site restored to something like its former glory. On our last visit new toilet facilities had been built as well as the small museum and shop, which makes the whole site a great deal more visitor friendly. There is also talk of letting visitors see the other two engines (so named A, B) which are housed in the other half of the building, to give people a better idea of the amount of work which has been done to achieve the result of the working engines and the vast amount of work still to be done. Clay Mills is a fascinating place and we recommend anyone who is interested in steam to pay it a visit. They are on the website which contains colour pictures and some more information about steaming days. Contact- www.Oldenginehouse.Demen.Co.uk/clay.Htm
HAZEL ATHERTON.

DECARBONISING AND VALVE GRINDING AS RECOMMENDED BY LISTER.

It is advisable to remove the cylinder head and scrape the carbon deposits off the piston and the inside of the cylinder head about every three months. The valves need regrinding at less frequent intervals. Mr Lister I don't know how your engines lasted as they have because I bet no farmer stripped the head of his Lister "D" type every three months, more like every three years if it was lucky, yet they still ran and gave great service as most of us know, because most of us has had a Lister "D" at some time, and they are still out there waiting to be found and restored. So heres to the Lister "D", may you last forever and give pleasure to all who look after you and rally you.

ERIC GAY:

SUBSCRIPTIONS#####

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2002. THE COMMITTEE HAS MANAGED TO AVOID A RISE IN THE PRICE OF MEMBERSHIP SUBS FOR YET ANOTHER YEAR, SO THEY REMAIN AT £10 FOR A DOUBLE, (HUSBAND AND WIFE) £8 FOR A SINGLE AND ONLY £1 FOR A JUNIOR MEMBER UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. PLEASE REMEMBER YOU CANNOT VOTE AT THE AGM UNLESS YOU HAVE RENEWED.

******* NEW MEMBERS *******

As Chairman I would like to welcome the following new members to the W. S. E. C. Mr and Mrs N GORRINGE of Portishead. I hope you membership will be a long and happy one.

*******EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY*******

THURSDAY 27th DECEMBER MINCE – PIE CRANK UP AT THE STON EASTON SOCIAL CLUB. USUAL RAFFLE. FREE MINCE PIES AND HOT DRINKS. CLUB BAR OPEN AT 12 o clock.

MONDAY JANUARY 28th CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN. GUEST SPEAKERS ARE BOB BURGESS AND COLIN DIPPER GIVING A TALK ON THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF MORRIS DANCING.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 25th CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN. A. G. M. LETS HAVE A GOOD ATTENDANCE PLEASE.

WESSEX BRAIN TEASERS

TRY TO FIND THE MAKES & TYPES OF CARS

Don't string this horse up A shallow water crossing.....

Gracie Fields lived here..... Sir Walter Raleigh played here.....

Kids Toy O thank you..... Not the light bulb.....

The old ferry not out..... Make of rum.....

A bay in Jamacia..... An excellent Musician.....

Time for a rest with an F..... French Train.....

Decree or Warrant..... Sounds like a pantry on wheels.....

A pirate ship..... A London Bridge.....

Ski run..... To accompany.....

This one has no hole in it..... A small horse.....

CAN YOU FIND THE WINES FROM THESE LETTERS

OAJASILEBU ANVEUO OUVNANISG

NEIOILMM TS JIAOR

NHARA YNOCD PNIOT IONR

EPNMACAHG DER SSEEDRT

NOMAODALLIT RSYEHR YDR TIWHE.....

GERACREB CNBLA SEREIBROC.....

GRUBY DAN RAECTL

Solve both Xmas teasers for 1 years free membership – Send entries to Jackie Lambert
At 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somerset BA11 2AX.

The winning entry will be drawn at the January club meeting. If you don't want to cut
Up your newsletter, send a photocopy or postcard, but please remember to add your name
and address.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

☆☆