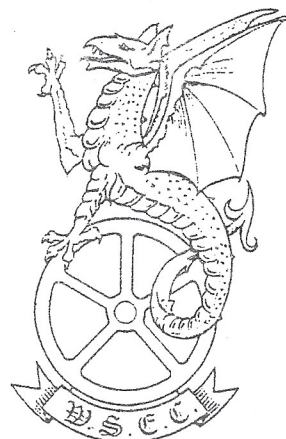


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

DECEMBER 2002.

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NEWSLETTER



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

The President, the Chairman and the Committee would like to wish all our members and readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We look foreword to seeing you all at our events and meetings in 2003.

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

As you read this, the last newsletter of 2002, the year 2002 is coming to an end. (how quickly the years seem to fly past). I'm sure you will all agree that 2002 has been quite a successful year for the WSEC. We have had some brilliant speakers at our monthly meetings at the Old Down Inn, and all our other events have by and large been successful and well patronised. Our Autumn sortout seemed to be well received by both buyers and sellers, the only disappointment was the café not opening, this meant no food and drinks available, including my breakfast. The last meeting at the Old Down Inn for 2002 saw a packed room entertained by John Budgen give an extremely interesting talk on the repair and manufacture of church organs. John can only be described as a master craftsman. Our "Anti - freeze crank-up at Nunney Catch Transport Café saw a really good turn out of exhibitors and visitors, engines and goods were being sold and money was changing hands, the dreadful weather forecast never materialised and every one had a very enjoyable day. Gordon and Jackie were extremely busy in the café feeding all the members and visitors with breakfasts and cooked lunches. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gordon and Jackie for allowing us to use their facilities for our crank-up's as this is definitely the best venue we have ever had, and the "icing on the cake" is the excellent food at very reasonable prices they provide for us. On behalf of all Wessex members, Gordon and Jackie, thank you very very much, we are deeply indebted to you both. I would also like to thank Linda Pike and Christine Rogers for doing a splendid job with the raffle, they braved a very cold morning selling the tickets, and I don't think anyone escaped their clutches, they then helped me with the draw which saw some sixty prizes or more given out to the worthy winners. Once again thank you ladies, your sterling work put at least £100 into club funds. Well this is my last report for 2002, I now look forward to all the club meetings and events that are already planned for 2003. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

B.J.B.

URGENT APPEAL - URGENT APPEAL - URGENT APPEAL

I have already asked members to come forward and fill the three vacant committee places that will need to be filled at the AGM in February. The response so far has been negative. If these posts are not filled then the smooth running of the club is in jeopardy, the continued success of this club in your hands.

B.J.B.

Clutton and its Flower Show

The village of Clutton is a large parish covering some four square miles in north Somerset, nine miles south of Bristol, eight west of Bath and eleven miles north of Wells and Shepton Mallet. The name is found in the Doomesday book as "Clutone" and it is said to originate from the saxon word "clud" meaning a hilly place and "ton" a settlement – hence 'settlement on a hill'. The name of the neighbouring village, Temple Cloud, has the same origin but means the hilly place of the Knights Templars who settled there much later in history. Clutton was the first place coal was known to have been discovered in Somerset, it is said as far back as Roman times. It was first mined in shallow bell-pits and later, a number of deep collieries were established under the stewardship of the Earl of Warwick who owned the title to the village.

The collieries demanded a workforce and housing was needed for them and so in the early 1900s Maynard Terrace, visible from the rallyfield, was built of Clutton-made brick, and named for a son of the Earl. Soon after completion however in 1909 the large colliery, Greyfield (a corruption of Greville, the Warwick family name) closed due to flooding and the last few houses were let to railway workers. Within a couple of years, another pit Burchells, was opened on a farm in the village centre but it closed finally in 1921 and is now a housing estate. A legacy of the mining industry is the 'Miner's Welfare Hall', now the village hall and situated in Venus Lane which, it is said, was itself once a ropewalk for laying out the colliery ropes.

The Bristol & N.Somerset railway through to Frome was found necessary to get the coal away to the port of Bristol and beyond; the first work on the line and the opening ceremony was at Clutton in 1871. A branch line ran from Clutton station to Greyfield worked by a Peckett locomotive "Daisy", again named after a wife of the Earl. The rallyfield, called 'Rudges', is not only bisected by the disused railway line but has the remnants of a colliery of the same name in it on the other side of the former track. Clutton always held the award for the best kept station on the line and excursion trips came from Frome, Bristol and Bath to Clutton when the Flower Show took place each year as it has since at least the turn of the last century. It is probably the oldest established event in the village and well known locally.

The church, a few minutes walk from Rudges, has a tower built in local red stone, mined on the hills to the northeast of the village and is unusual in a normally limestone area. The rest of the building is a Victorian rebuild, this time in a local grey pennant stone mined on the southern fringe. The farm behind the church is one of the oldest houses in the village and from it, reached through the churchyard, is an avenue of trees mainly chestnuts, covering a footpath linked to the main A37 road. Another old house is Maypole Farm, now a private residence where ancestors of Sir Henry Irving the actor once lived. Cholwell House, though strictly in Temple Cloud was one of the former homes of Sir William Rees-Mogg's family which had strong connections with Clutton.

Being a mining village, Clutton used to boast five public houses, there are now three. The Warwick Arms was an old coaching inn on the turnpike road and alas, has lost its former character but is possibly the best of the three remaining. The Hunter's Rest was a beerhouse but has gone upmarket and is on the northern boundary with Farmborough. The nearest pub to the rally field however, is the Temple Inn, much more of a village pub than those in Clutton. Near the Railway Inn can be found the School, Post Office and the Country Butchers, the latter by far the smallest but best stocked shop in the area and well worth paying a visit.

There are many footpaths in the village, five cross the rallyfield and one, to the east across the railway, leads to Greyfield and a picturesque waterfall in the woods. The old railway line through the remains of the station and towards the north is now an interesting footpath leading to yet another colliery, Frysbottom, or on to Chelwood. On the way it passes behind Dawsons, the famous steeplejack's yard and the red brick chimney of the airshaft of Burchells Pit can still be seen in the woods.

Clutton has a website <http://www.clutton.org.uk> where you can find more about the current village.

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

FOR SALE RENAULT 19 "CHAMADE". Champagne Gold. 1700cc. H Reg. Power steering, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows and Sunroof. New Cam belt, Exhaust, Tyres Etc. Taxed and MOT. Towbar Fitted. Excellent Condition. Any Trial. £659 or VNO. Ring 01749 344115 for further details. Shepton Mallet Area.

FOR SALE MITSUBUSHI SHOGUN. SWB. 2.6 Petrol. Black. Excellent Condition. Lots of Money Spent. MOT June 2003. Alloy Wheels. £3000. No Offers. Small 2 Berth Caravan. Europa CI. Good Condition. Ready for use. Separate Toilet area and porch awning. £200. No offers. Telephone 0117 9497020.

FOR SALE PETTER AA1 3hp Diesel. Class 1. £110. LISTER "D" No 186302 Spec DH. Dated 5-1-44. Class 1. Sold by A Brewer & Co, Wilton Wilts. On wheels. Phone 01985 840340 Evenings.

WANTED An AMAL 360/5 Carburettor. Please phone Henry on 01225 754434. Trowbridge Area.

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

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27th "MINCE PIE" CRANK - UP At Nunney Catch Transport Café. Please note no hot food, only hot mince pies, sausage rolls and hot drinks. I have heard though that early birds may get the chance of a bacon sandwich. We shall also have another magnificent raffle.

MONDAY JANUARY 27th. The first meeting of 2003 at the Old Down Inn. The guest speaker is Martin Phippard giving a video and slide presentation on Australian Road Trains. The usual raffle. And a chance to renew your membership of the most active club in the west.

***** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *****

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the Birthday Wishes from the club on my 80th birthday, also thanks to those club members who assist me loading / unloading my engine at rally's and crank-ups. (Engines do seem to get heavier as time goes on). Thanks also to Gordon and Jackie and staff for looking after us so well at the "Anti-freeze" crank-up on December 1st.

On the Monday morning following this event I was able to see pictures of engines taken the previous day on the " World Wide Web". If any members would like to have a look the site can be found at <http://community.webshots.com/user/kimsiddorn> May I also add how much Freda and I enjoy going to these small club events and the coach trips whenever we are able to.

STAN KERLEY.

CALLING ALL STUART TURNER ENGINE OWNERS

Fairways Marine Engineers have taken over all Stuart spares and original records of all engines sold. So if you want your engine dated, or spare parts, or an instruction book, give them a ring. Their address is, FAIRWAYS MARINE ENGINEERS. BATH PLACE WHARF, DOWNS ROAD, MALDON, ESSEX. CM9 7HU. Or ring on 01621 852866. This information was supplied for the benefit of club members by Dave Clapp.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL MEMBERS THAT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2003 IS NOW DUE. YOU CAN SEND YOUR RENEWAL TO JACKIE LAMBERT 15 BEECHWOOD AVENUE, FROME SOMERSET. BA11 2AX. OR AT ANY WESSEX EVENT OR MEETING.

THE GREAT DORSET STEAM FAIR AUGUST 28th to SEPTEMBER 1st

As usual I went early to watch this gigantic show come together. It seems incredible that so much can be squeezed into this site, that must take up somewhere in the region of 600 acres. They take a large number of prepaid campers that fill a large field overlooking the show from the Blandford end, as well as a section in a field within the show itself. The special section this year centred on pre 1930 tractors, going back to the late 1800's. There were about 100 on show, and some of them worked an area of ground in front of the display. There were stationary engines from France and Germany as well as many from within these islands. The static tractors showed a very high standard of presentation as people wanted to know the in's and out's of everything. I had the misfortune to have the dipstick stolen from my Fordson on the Friday, but to take away this disappointment the Fordson won the best Fordson award on the Sunday, this was a nice bonus. The Heavy Haulage Section gave their usual varied displays throughout the day, backed up by the wood sawing and thrashing. All other sections were fully represented and daily took their places through the main ring. The line up of steamers in front of the fair was as usual very impressive, supporting the old time fair rides, but the size of the modern white knuckle rides was something to admire. How anyone can subject themselves to be spun, tipped over, hung upside down all at the same time as the ride turned all sorts of aerobatics. These rides were mind blowing. Apart from a shower on the Friday night for about twenty minutes the show was a great success and probably the best ever. I shall look forward to seeing the official video later in the year.

BRIAN LOVELL.

BERWICK ST JOHN COUNTRY FAIR 14th - 15th SEPTEMBER

I always look forward to this bi-annual show that is very different to any other show that I attend. This year there was a change of venue to a neighbouring farm that has an almost level ground. Never the less, this site proved to be a wonderful success. To start with the camping area for the most part was level, on grass and very firm, so allowing the many lorries and low loaders to park with ample room around them. I arrived early on Friday to find the fields already beginning to fill. In due course I greeted our Editor and his travelling companion (the cat) who was set up in an area near the main bar and entertainment tent. (N.B. This was South Somerset's editor). Alas the Friday night's entertainment group proved to be too noisy for Dick so he came and spent the evening with me in Henrys travelling home, saying the group could be heard back in Shaftesbury. Over the weekend there were far more entries in all classes than I have seen at any of the previous six shows. For instance there have always been two rows of tractors, this year there were five rows, each about 100 yards long. I hung out my B&B sign (ha ha) as two exhibitors had expressed their wish to stay with me over night and so provide breakfast for them, and one more on Sunday. The main show field was very large allowing for several saw benches and thrashing demonstrations to be carried out. The lower end of the field was occupied by trade stands, commercials, and fun fair, while as usual the stationary engine section was all down the the longest side, with one difference, that being a wide roadway behind the lines to give access from the rear for exhibitors and emergency vehicles. (This is a practise that is adopted at the Sedgemore show). As well as a well supported working field, the exhibitors were treated to a Sunday morning road run that took them across the downs, for most this was the only time the wheeled exhibits moved, due to the event being static. For a show that is free to the public, the funds are raised by a large draw and donation boxes that realises very large figures, given to deserving organisations. This year the charity is Asthma Research.

BRIAN LOVELL.

THE THATCHERS YARD COMPTON DUNDON SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER

This is an event put on to raise funds for local deserving causes, by the Wright family, who have been and still are thatchers by trade. Harold was busy laying out his vast collection of photographs that depict the many designs that they have applied their trade to around the west country. On display was a Scammell and living wagon, George Trains Ruston Proctor Traction engine with two models in steam, displays of sewing machines, radios, dolls in prams and a lot of scales. Also present were cars, stationary engines, a lorry and a Fordson tractor. Later in the afternoon the usual raffle took place under the guidance of Brian Hook from Long Sutton, that took three quarters of an hour to finally distribute all of the prizes. A very big thank you to the Wright Family for such a pleasant day.

BRIAN LOVELL

******* ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOW 28 – 31 MAY 2003 *******

POWER OF THE PAST

I am writing to officially invite the Wessex Stationary Engine club to display equipment within the Power of the Past area at the Royal Bath and West Show in 2003. New for the 2002 show, the Power of the Past area was hugely successful, with a spectacular display of steam engines, commercial vehicles, classic/vintage cars and motorcycles all in one area together. We would be delighted if the club could bring a variety of working exhibits, to fill an allocated space within the marquee area, which is being organised by Mr Tony Carter. Please note that this excludes tractors. If the club is able to accept this invitation, please liaise with Mr Carter, who will be responsible for organising your members exhibits. The site we have offered is, of course, free of charge, but the Society is unable to provide any expenses, however you are welcome to sell memorabilia, and we will of course supply all the necessary tickets and passes for entry to the show. I will be sending the tickets and passes to Tony Carter in April 2003, and will include a map of the site to be forwarded to you. There is a campsite available which could accommodate the caravans of your members attending the show should this be required. Showers, toilets and disposal points are available on the showground. It is especially important that we receive an indication of those members who intend to bring a caravan or tent so that we can reserve them the appropriate space within the campsite. Therefore I would be extremely grateful if you would please ensure that Tony receives this information. I look forward to welcoming you and the club to the show next year.

Yours sincerely, Rachel Taylor. PA to Shows Director.

This was a letter sent to Arthur Smith, Club Secretary, from the Royal Bath and West Show.

A TALE BY TULIP TOP

BEWARE OF THE GREEN TIGER IN YOUR TANK

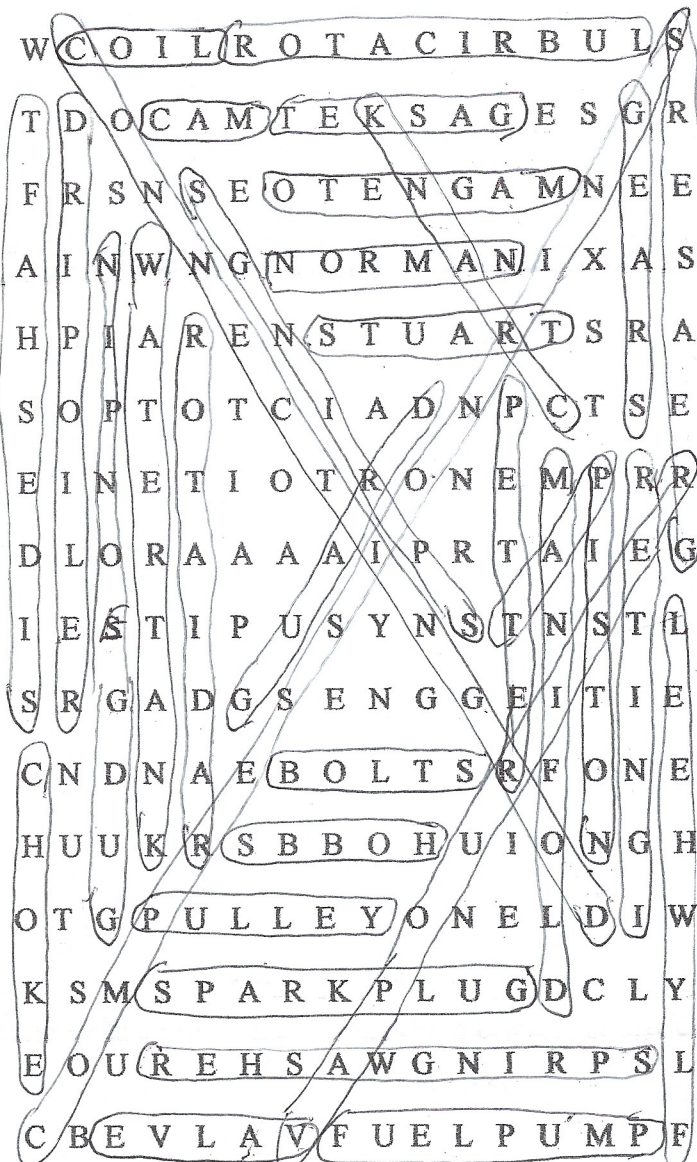
Now winter was fast approaching and my master came into the garage, and I knew I was going to be started up. This always happens just before winter. After I have had a good run I am then given a jolly good clean, I am then oiled and covered up for the winter.

Well I was taken outside, my oiler was turned on and I was turned over slowly a few times, then petrol was put into my carburettor bowl, my starting handle put onto the shaft and I was swung into action. Yes I started as I most times do, but very soon I stopped, master tried again with the same result, this happened four times. Now he knows it is not like me to not run, as I have always been well looked after since he first brought me to Trowbridge. Now my master had filled me with petrol about sixteen weeks ago and I had run with no trouble at all. He could not now think why I was poorly, so off came my filler cap on my petrol tank, and I just hope that no one heard what he said as it was very rude. Well you see, the inside of my petrol tank was one lump of stinking jelly. The petrol had turned into a near solid lump and my master was not very happy. For as I have said he has always cared for me in every way. Off came my fuel tank, and then he tried to remove the fuel feed pipe and non-return valve, this was stuck solid in my tank, and when at last he did get it out it was in a very poor state. My nice copper pipe was all bluey green and all pitted just as though it had been burned with acid. When my master saw this, again it was a good job no one overheard what he called Mr Esso as it was not at all polite. He then tried to clean my poor fuel tank, clean petrol was added but this did no good at all, well what will melt jelly? Soon he came back into the workshop with a kettle full of boiling water and some sort of green liquid stuff, and this was put into my tank, and you should see how this reacted, the jelly did not like the hot water, and the hot water did not like the jelly. It took my master three lots of boiling water to get all of that mess out of my tank. Yet the trouble was not yet over, as my non-return valve, made from cast aluminium, a small spring and a rubber diaphragm was beyond repair, being totally eaten away by the green tiger in my tank, so now I have to wait until my master can find or make me new ones. So to all of you beware of the green tiger in your tank, for it has made me quite ill. I know my master will make me better and I will run again, perhaps I will go to the Great Dorset and drive the corn mill, I like doing that it's great fun. Well bye-bye for now, have a good rest through the winter and I will see you all next year I hope. I will have a new valve by then as master has started making me a new one. You see he is still looking after me.

TULIP TOP. PS. Master has an old motor bike and you should have seen the mess it's petrol tank was in, believe me it was a good job he could not get his hands on that Mr Esso. E.J.G.

CHRISTMAS HINDLEBORO

WORDSEARCH.



- Bolts
- Cam
- Choke
- Compression Rings
- Coil
- Crank
- Connecting Rod
- Drip Oiler
- Flywheel
- Fuel Pump
- Gasket
- Gears
- Greasers
- Guard
- Gudgeon Pin
- Hobbs
- Igniter
- Lubricator
- Magneto
- Manifold
- Norman
- Nuts
- Petter
- Piston
- Pulley
- Radiator
- Sideshaft
- Sparkplug
- Springs
- Springwasher
- Stuart
- Tap
- Valve
- Vapouriser
- Water Tank

Find the Engine makes and Engine Components, any remaining letters will read something well known to you. Form these letters into words and send them to me, Jackie Lambert, 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somt BA11 2AX All correct entries will go into a draw for a free years membership. The draw will take place at the January Club Meeting.

Name.....

(Only one deliberate spelling mistake as far as we know this year!!!!!!!)