

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

DECEMBER 2004

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

The Chairman and Committee would like to wish all members and readers a very merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again at the splendid programme of events and meetings we have planned for the 2005 year ahead. A very happy 2005 rally season to you all.

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

A very fitting end to the meetings this year at the Old Down Inn was the November meeting where a really large audience were treated to a brilliant evenings entertainment by Peter Davey giving a talk and slide show on the Trams of Bath from the very early 1900's. A very large raffle as usual was a useful addition to club funds. I took my 8 year old grandson Oliver with me and he told me on the way home it was the best night he had ever had, probably the fact he won about ten prizes on the raffle had something to do with that statement. The Anti-Freeze Crank-Up at Nunney Catch Transport Café on the 5th December was a resounding success, the area was completely full of exhibits of all shapes and sizes. A lot of members came just for a visit to look around, it's nice for me to meet members who have just been a name in the membership list, I had a talk with Steve Bailey and his son James who you will remember had an article about his engine in the Stationary Engine magazine. It was also nice to meet Bill Foster again from the depths of Dorset. I remember going to Bill's house in the" back of beyond" in Dorset to buy something from him when I first got interested in engines. The day was rounded off with a very large raffle of over 80 prizes, a big thank you to all who contributed to it. A sincere vote of thanks also to Gordon and Jackie who makes us so welcome at the Café, from all the members thank you both very much indeed. I think 2004 has been a very successful year for the club, all the events and meetings have been very well supported by you the members, please keep up the good work and support all the events we have planned for you in 2005. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Author Unknown. But Andrea Feeney had it sent to her from America.

CAN YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST RALLY?

I thought I would share with you how a junior member of the WSEC James Bailey (13) got on at his first rally. He has a Lister 'D' (no 197924) which originated from a farm in Bournmouth where it was used as a back up for a milking machine. He also has a Stuart Turner, not sure of the history, and Gould water pump, which came from my uncles bungalow at Hazelbury Bryan. (There was an article about James in Stationary Engine Magazine no 392 page 9). On the 26th of September we went to Breamore House in Hampshire, last working weekend of the season. We were lucky that father-in-law has a van we can borrow or we would never have made it. Everything was loaded up the day before so we did not have to rush around, living only two miles away. We did not have to be at the show until 10am, however for some reason James was up before the time he would normally go to school. Being complete novices it was good to mix with other enthusiasts to talk about our engine and give us some tips you do not read in a book. James was also shown how to get both pumps running at the same time. Part way through the engine developed a loud squeak, thinking the worst, we were shown that where the governor rod touches onto the control rod I had painted over the ball end, this should have been loose. However it was never going to move so for the rest of the day we had to keep it oiled, a smack on the wrists for me! James left me in charge while he went off into the countryside museum with some of the enthusiasts who have helped restoring some of the exhibits. I could see lots of smoke and heard lots of banging from the building, this was four of the old tractors being started, which has become a regular event. What made James day was when he was given a horse brass with details of his first show. STEVE BAILEY

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

MONDAY DECEMBER 27th. Mince-Pie Crank-up at the OLD DOWN INN. We shall have the usual hot mince pies and sausage rolls. The Old Down will be open for refreshments. We shall be holding our usual magnificent raffle, any prizes would be most welcome. Bring any bits and pieces for sale. Most of all bring yourselves and your engines. Let's have a good turn out for the last event of 2004.

TUESDAY 28th DECEMBER Tractor and Engine Autojumble. At Alvis Farm Shop, A38 Redhill Nr Bristol. £8 per pitch. For details ring 07901944596 (mobile) Refreshments available, buyers £1 entry.

MONDAY JANUARY 31st. Club night at the Old Down Inn. Guest speaker - Jonathon Hockedy (our Junior Reporter) giving a talk and slide show on Bank Notes of the World. If Jonathon's newsletter reports are anything to go by this will be a very interesting evenings entertainment. DON'T MISS IT – BE THERE.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 28th. The 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. With over 350 members in the club I would expect a good turn out for the most important date in the calendar. Also we need at least two new committee members to help run the club, come on ,do your bit.

The following are new members who have just joined the club, Mr & Mrs I Barrow and Michael from Bridgewater, and Mr Dan Barden from Torquay. We would like to welcome you to the Wessex Stationary Engine Club and hope your membership will be a long and rewarding one.

THERE WAS AN ERROR IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER. THE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP SHOULD HAVE READ £ 9-00. NOT £8-00 AS PRINTED

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we hear of the death of John Upton. John passed away on Saturday 20th November after spending some weeks in hospital. Many club members will have fond memories of our visit to his home at Grateley to view his mammoth collection of stationary engines, and the welcome he and his family gave us will never be forgotten. As a frequent visitor to rallies John loved to create a bit of leg pulling and banter, he was a character in his own right and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our condolences and sympathy go out to his wife and family.

ROBIN

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING. An illustrated talk by PETER DAVEY ON BATH TRAMS

Once again members were treated to an excellent evenings entertainment by Peter Davey. It was not too long ago that he gave us an insight to the Clifton Rocks Railway and had his audience captivated by his enthusiasm on this Bristol hidden treasure, he also gave us an update on how things were progressing at Clifton now that electricity had been installed down the tunnels, but tonight he was to talk about Bath Trams which would take us back to the early 1900's when major investment created a network of rail track that was laid in and around the city for horse drawn tram cars. This was a much needed transport system for a busy city that sprawled right out to its perimeters, as far as Bathford, Newton St Loe, Twerton and Coombe Down. Superb photographs were projected onto the screen showing city life 100 years ago and for members who know Bath as it is today they could pick out many areas familiar to them. Some 14 miles of track in total spread out like arteries to ferry people around, but things were soon to change as electricity was to play a major part in transforming the network, hundreds of steel poles were erected along the routes carrying wires which would power the new German built trams that were to replace the horse drawn cars, to power this system a new steam powered generating station was built next to the tram terminus at Walcot Street. The station produced 500 volts D.C. to feed the tram motors. At it's peak the tram company had around 70 trams operating about half of them were double-deckers, the single trams were used on routes that had low railway bridges as the Great Western Railway line to Bristol criss-crossed many tram routes. These single decked trams also required an extra long power pick-up pole to enable passage under the bridges as the power line normally operated at a height of 16 feet. To help the drive wheels grip up Bath's hilly street sand boxes were used to distribute dry sand just in front of the drive wheels. Maintenance played an all important part in keeping the tramway up and running and even included a rail grinding car that would operate at night where it would level off any high spots or damaged areas on the track, this must have looked spectacular during the hours of darkness. The trams carried lots of advertising on them which would have brought in extra revenue for the company, Harris Bacon and Pork Pies, Georges Bristol Beer at one shilling a gallon and Mazawattee Tea to name a few. The tram drivers and conductors were not allowed to visit pubs during their 12 hour working day unless it was to deliver a parcel as most pubs were used as delivery and collection points. Sadly at the end of the 1930's after 40 years of excellent service the trams were being replaced by A.E.C. buses, the redundant tram cars were parked up to be dismantled, when everything useful had been removed the bodies were set alight and burnt. Peter finished his talk by showing several artefacts that were once part of the trams including a nice rotating route box displaying all the locations the tram would stop at, conductors money bag and bell punch and even an original wheel that ran along the overhead electric cable which picked up power for the trams motor. Brian thanked Peter for another excellent evening and our club members showed their appreciation.

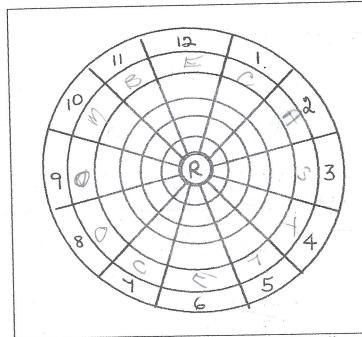
Robin

FOR SALE Lister D type spares. Loads of spares, to much to list, not new but in good condition. Give me a ring I may have just what you want. Early Petter M type oil bottle and magneto. 55 watt Sodium light fittings complete with infra red detectors. Ideal for yard or parking area lighting. Some brand new,£25 complete. Some used £12 complete. Amanco Magneto Bracket with drive gear. £45. For further details ring Eric on 01225 754374. Trowbridge area.

The members would like to wish a very happy birthday to **Gordon Callow** on reaching his 60th birthday. All the Wessex members know Gordon for his wonderful hospitality at the Nunney Catch Transport Café. Many happy returns of the day from us all. Remember one thing Gordon, you will never be 59 again.

The club members would also like to wish many happy returns of the day to **Dorothy (Dot) Watts** who will be 80 years young on the 27th December, (mince pie crank-up day.) A very happy birthday from us all Dot, and we look forward to seeing you at the crank-up, if you catch me at the bar I will buy you a birthday drink.

WESSEX MINDBENDER



- 1. Zodiac sign
- 2. Book writer
- 3. Close relation
- 4. Old 6d
- 5. Legal man
- 6. Type of cream cake
- 7. Roman emperor
- 8. Edible mollusc
- 9. Speaker
- 10. Looking glass
- 11. Line between 2 countries
- 12. Religious festival

Moving clockwise from the outer circle will spell out a well-known rally site. All six letter words end in R. Answer:- CASTLE COOMBE

Answers are all makes or models of stationary engines

As simple as	ABC
Global travellers requirement	ATLAS
Yappy dog	BULL DOG
One of the magnificent seven	OTTO
Old black cat	FELIX
Can do anything	JACK OF ALL TRADES
Supplies caviar	STURGEON
Kidnappers income	RANSOMES
A soldier's heartbreaking letter (in reverse)	JOHN DEERE

All the answers are in the December 2004 Stationary Engine magazine somewhere!!

Please send all entries to Jackie Lambert, 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somerset BA11 2AX. The winner will receive a FREE membership for 1 year and the winning name will be drawn out at the January meeting.