

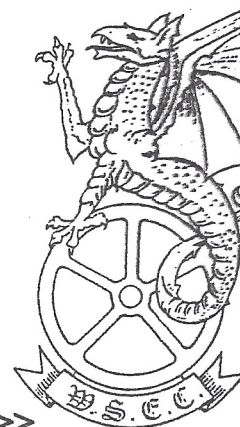


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

**DECEMBER 2005**

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## **NEWSLETTER**



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### **EDITORIAL**

**THE CHAIRMAN AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS AND MEMBER'S A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN 2006 AT THE EVENTS AND MEETINGS THAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR YOU.**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It doesn't seem possible that this is the last newsletter for this year, the older you get the quicker time seems to fly. Looking back over this year I think the club has enjoyed a very successful year. Our meetings and events have been well attended, membership is as high as ever, finances are sound, in fact we should all be proud of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. We are looking for at least two new committee members to help run the club next year and make 2006 as successful as this year. As Editor I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

### **\*\*\*\*\* CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN \*\*\*\*\* MONDAY NOVEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>**

What a night, as I left home at around 7-15 it had started to snow, by the time I got to the top of the Mendips it was a blizzard that reduced visibility to just a few yards, young Oliver thought it was brilliant as he thought he would not have to go to school the following day. However I arrived at the Old Down thinking no one would turn up, especially the members of South Somerset who were arriving for an inter - club Quiz. My doubts were soon dispelled when members started to arrive, including quite a large number of South Somerset members. The overall numbers were a lot less than usual as some members set out but because of the weather turned around and went back home. Brian Hook brought their quiz buttons and lights and said he had a team of 8 player's, I went around our members and raised a team to match theirs. Brian had compiled 100 questions which comprised the first half with him as question master and his wife keeping the scores, I had brought another 100 questions and was question master for the second half with Brian's wife still keeping the score. This was quite an entertaining evening and after the points were added up we emerged the victors by just four points. The star of our team was Kathy Riley who certainly knew her general knowledge, many thanks Kathy, you are in the team next time. A very good raffle rounded off what was a very good meeting, with South Somerset remarking on our raffle, they were amazed at the amount of prizes on offer. Thanks to all members who took part. Luckily when the meeting was over the roads were clear of snow so we had no problem driving home. BJB.



## (((((((((((((((( BENTALL'S BI, CENTENERY ))))))))))))))))

In about 1798 William Bentall invented a new type of plough, in the quiet Essex village of Goldhanger on the estuary of the river Blackwater. The plough was cast iron bolted onto a wooden frame, which he put to use on his land. When his neighbour's noticed how well his new plough turned the soil they were soon asking for one. William subsequently faced the choice of being a farmer making ploughs for other farmers in his spare time or becoming a full time maker of agricultural implements. By 1805 he had given up farming and built a factory in Heybridge next to the newly opened Chelmer and Blackwater canal. He went on to develop a successful steam thrashing outfit, before handing over to his son Edward Mammond Bentall. Edward continued to diversify and built up the business through his Patent Broad Share Cultivator. To cut costs he invented a machine to make his own nuts and bolts, and before long this became a major feature of the business. The company prospered over the years, producing a wide range of agriculture machinery which was sold all over the world, and now often seen on the rally field. In 1889 Edward's inventive son Edmund took over and he developed a petrol engine to power the agriculture machinery. In the climate of the times it was only a short step from this to the manufacture of his own motor car. After making a couple of prototypes for family use he launched the Bentall cars in 1905. prices ranged from £220 for the 11hp two seater to £420 for the 16-20hp Landaulette. Manufacturing ceased in 1912 after only about 100 Bentall cars had been produced. Only one car is known to have survived and is owned by L.E. Bentall of Surrey, a distant family connection to the Essex Bentall's. We have seen this 1908 Landaulette car on display in the Bentall's retail store in Kingston on Thames. Technical detail's of the car – 16-20 hp. Chassis with four cylinder water cooled petrol engine, 90mm bore x 95mm stroke. Gearbox has three forward and one reverse, live drive to rear axle. Lighting, Lucas oil side and tail lamps, acetylene head lamps. Top speed 28 mph. Fuel consumption 10 mpg.

MARGARET SIMMONS

## (((((((((((((((( ANTI - FREEZE CRANK - UP. SUNDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> )))))))))))))))) AT NUNNEY CATCH TRANSPORT CAFE

The crank-up's at Nunney are always popular because of the on site facilities. Because of the torrential rain and numerous flooded roads in the area in the days leading up to the Sunday, combined with a not very favourable weather forecast the usual numbers of exhibitors were down. In spite of the forecast the morning was quite sunny and warm, in fact I think it was the warmest crank-up ever held at Nunney. However we had quite a good turn out of engines of various makes together with a couple of Jeeps and a larger military vehicle, also Sam Jackson's lovely little yellow Austin Seven. A recent new member, Keith Nash from Evercreech turned up with a very large trailer with three Armstrong Siddley Diesel engines, these were 2 single cylinder engines and 1 twin cylinder engine, Keith had these running and they certainly ran very quiet. Despite the threat of rain putting off some members we had exhibitors from Basingstoke and South Gloucester turn up. Gordon and Jackie were very busy keeping everyone supplied with food and drinks, and when I said to Oliver we are going in for a cooked breakfast he replied oh! good, that has made my day, and the way he demolished a large fried breakfast it must have. I never cease to marvel at the generosity of the Wessex members, the amount of prizes on offer broke all Wessex records, we had 75 prizes for the members to choose from, with prizes ranging from a bottle of Teachers whisky to a very nice gents watch, all contributed by members. Diana Davis done a magnificent job selling the raffle tickets which amounted to the brilliant total of £126, well done Diana, that was a magnificent effort. After the raffle at 2pm everyone loaded up and headed for home after a very successful crank-up.

B.J.B.

### \*\*\*\*\* GYPSY MOTH 1V \*\*\*\*\*

Many of us may just about remember 1966-1967 when Sir Francis Chichester skippered his boat Gypsy Moth 1V to complete the fastest solo circumnavigation in a small vessel. He sailed from Plymouth to Sydney and back via Cape Horn in just 274 days. That was a wonderful achievement at the time, without all the modern satellite tracking and communications systems. What has happened to Gypsy Moth 1V since it's moment of glory? It has been on display in a dry dock at Greenwich until last November when she was sold for £1 and a gin and tonic (Chichester's favourite tippie) to the United Kingdom Sailing Academy. They persuaded the British Marine industry and sponsors to donate equipment and funds for a complete refit. Some 12000 hours of Ship Wrights time and £600,000 in cash and hardware were needed for the restoration. After a few public appearances, which has included the Southampton boat Show and a reception at the Plymouth Yacht Club, where the very same Gypsy Moth bi-plane that flew out to meet Sir Francis Chichester when he returned from his record breaking voyage, flew across Plymouth Sound and escorted Gypsy Moth out to sea. She is going on a second circumnavigation voyage. There is obviously plenty of life left in that old sea dog yet. MARGARET SIMMONS



**ON SITE RISK ASSESSMENT**

Many of you will have read or heard of risk assessment, some of you may be already putting this into practise at your place of work, it's nothing new, we've been doing it all our lives, in the home, on the road driving or whatever we undertake to do, we all need from time to time to identify a hazard and do our best to eradicate it. That old rickety stepladder full of woodworm that you have been using for donkey's years is going to let you down one day, it's a hazard, you may not be up it when it breaks, but you could help to control the situation by replacing it with a stable and safe one before the inevitable happens. On the road driving we identify hazards all the time and we control them by driving safely thus eliminating harm to you and all of those around us. We as a club must be seen to putting safety into practise and recording that this has been done, in future all our club run events will have an on site Risk Assessment done on whatever we organise, the risks will vary from event to event, for example our Vintage Sort-out should be of a lesser risk to stage than most as running machinery is almost non-existent, but that does not mean that there will not be any hazards, so we will do our very best to identify them and control them. We cannot do this alone, every one of you will need to participate in keeping our events safe, without your help it will not work. The future of our hobby rests with all of us pulling in the same direction, and only then will we be able to continue doing what we enjoy most. If you are approached on a matter of safety please do not take offence as the safety officer or other persons are trying their best to help you avoid a risk situation and will take no pleasure in bringing this subject to your attention. At every event in future a member of the committee will fill out a risk assessment form that we have compiled and had printed, the risks will be assessed and the action to minimise these risks will be noted and the forms will be filed away for future reference should the need arise.

**B.J.B.**

**<<<<<<<<<<<< NEW MEMBERS >>>>>>>>>>>>**

The following are new members who have recently joined our club. Mr and Mrs Adrian Candy from Shepton Mallet, Mr G. T. James from Langport, and Mr and Mrs Hurford from Winterslow, Salisbury. We hope you enjoy your membership with our club and we hope it will be a long and happy one.

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

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>** Mince-Pie crank-up at Nunney Catch Transport Café. The last event of 2005. There will be mince pies and sausage rolls for members but the café will only be selling hot drinks, NO HOT FOOD. Let's have a good turn out for the last Wessex event this year. The usual raffle will be held, let's see if we can beat the record breaking raffle at the Anti-freeze crank-up. ( 75 prizes )

**MONDAY JANUARY 30th.** Club night at the Old Down Inn. The first in 2006. Guest speaker Mike Horler of Heavy Horse Fame giving a talk and presentation on MY LIFE WITH SHIRE HORSES. This sounds like a good nights entertainment. The usual raffle will be held. It's an ideal oppourtunity to turn up and renew your membership for 2006.

<<<<<<<<<<< GET WELL SOON >>>>>>>>>>>

The club members would like to send best wishes for a speedy recovery to Dianne Hudd who is recovering in hospital after a fall at home which broke her hip. Dianne has had an operation to repair her badly damaged hip but is faced with a long stay in hospital, possibly three months or more, so we all hope you soon recover and come to all our events as you have in the past. If any member who knows Dianne would like to send her a card her address is 8 Kings Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 7NX.

The club would also like to send a get well soon message to Paul Chants wife who is also ill in hospital, our thoughts are with you and we wish you a speedy recovery.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

Membership subscriptions for 2006 are now due. The subscriptions are unchanged at £11 for a double, £9 for a single and only £1 for junior members under 18 years old. Membership renewals to be sent to Jackie Lambert at 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somerset BA11 2AX. Cheques made payable to Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd.



# Wessex Mindbender

CHRISTMAS 2005

Unscramble the anagrams to find the engines, fit them into the grid to  
Reveal another engine reading down

Trivia Co  
Red Gran  
Smart Pine  
See Wolly  
Hoy Warmth  
Lean Pope  
Cpl Blame  
Stolen Back  
Santa in Goal  
Sly Score  
No Charm  
Slow Gag  
Oh Lend Lawn

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | V | I | C | T | O | R | I | A |
| G | A | R | D | N | E | R |   |   |
| P | R | E | A | S | T | M | A | N |
| W | O | L | S | E | L | E | Y |   |
| H | A | M | W | O | R | T | H | Y |
| P | E | L | A | P | O | N | E |   |
|   | C | A | M | P | B | E | L | L |
| B | L | A | C | K | S | T | O | N |
|   | N | A | T | I | O | N | A | L |
|   | C | R | O | S | S | L | E | Y |
|   | M | O | N | A | R | C | H |   |
|   | G | L | A | S | G | O | W |   |
| N | E | W | H | O | L | L | A | N |

Now the not so easy ones — Find the engines from the clues

Lonnie Donegans Railway  
Highland Soarer  
Prickly Cottage  
Rough Footballer  
Colourfull Flower  
Nightclub Ejector  
Inhouse Barney  
Outlaws Enemy  
Eventually Understanding  
Marooned Family

ROCK ISLAND LINE  
EAGLE  
THORNYCROFT  
FOWLER  
ASTER  
DORMAN  
DOMESTIC  
MARSHALL  
TWIGG  
ROBINSON

The person with the most correct answers will receive a free membership for one year  
Send your entries to: Jackie Lambert, 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somerset.  
BA11 2AX  
The winner will be announced on 30<sup>th</sup> January (Club night)