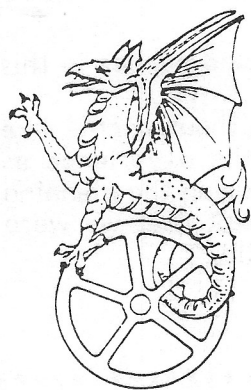


# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1985

The material in this Newsletter shall not be reproduced without prior consent and due reference to the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. All rights reserved. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Club

\*\*\*\*\*

### CHRISTMAS CRANKERS

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love said to me:

"Let's forget the six geese a-laying and go for nine stationary engines a-running".

So, swallowing my disappointment over the geese, I agreed, and we set off to Bath University to join a small engine rally, part of an activities weekend for Venture Scouts and Rangers.

After a very murky drive, we arrived at a covered roadway below the University's pedestrian precinct and the smiling faces of Don and Christine Rogers appeared through the fog. They had brought their Bulldog with them. Several other WSEC members were already set up, and the strange thing was, that in the gloom created by a combination of the misty morning, the artificial lighting, and the exhaust fumes, all the stationary engines looked the same colour - sludge brown - ideal camouflage for any rusty paintwork.

By about ten o'clock we were all assembled, the Rogers with the Bulldog; Mike Cannon with his 2½ hp Bamford; Rom Randall with his 4 hp Bamford; Mike Hodgson with his Petter M from Kilmersdon Colliery; John & Diana Emery with their Barker, the Bulldog's pal; Mr. Emery Senior with his Amanco and matching pump; young Simon Adams with his Petter A; his Dad, Jeremy Adams with his Lister Junior; and finally, Eric Brain, who amazed Diana and me by pushing his Ruston PR, on its trolley, all the way from Clutton! We wondered if PR might stand for 'Pram Race', which gave us a wonderful idea for a brand new Club Event for the summer - a push-your-own-engine race; Diana even worked out a possible route and Eric said that of course the smaller, lighter engines would be given a handicapped start, and then spoilt it all by revealing that he'd merely pushed the Ruston from round the corner where he was parked! You should have seen it go though!

One of the Scout organisers came to see us, and in passing mentioned that he was a bit bothered that they couldn't find about 200 of the 400 scouts and rangers booked in for the weekend. He also said we were welcome to join in any of the sports, crafts or other activities on offer, so later, when the men had a few interested 'customers' asking awkward questions about the engines, Diana and I decided to look at the Crafts, which were especially interesting as they took place in a centrally heated room!

First we had a go at producing an embossed picture made from thick aluminium foil. We chose a drawing each to trace and pressed hard with the point of an old biro to transfer the picture's outline to the foil. Then a lot of hard rubbing on the reverse side made the picture stand out - Diana's was a cat and mine was an owl.

We then moved on to hand engraving on glass which was done with a special metal engraving tool, and needed hard pressure to scratch out a picture. My right hand was aching by now! Diana seemed to get on faster than me and soon had an etched kingfisher, fish in beak, on her piece of glass. She went over to try her hand at enamelling while I finished my engraving of a bird sitting on a flowery branch.

About 12.30 we rejoined the engine rally, deciding on the way down that we'd give the wall climbing activity a miss on this occasion. We'd timed our arrival just right, as everyone was loading up, but discovered we'd missed a free cup of coffee, supplied by the organisers; not only that but Mike Hodgson and Tom had sniffed out a Chinese cookery demonstration with free sample! Apparently the missing scouts and guides had all been found - many of them had been nursing delicate heads at the Astronomy Lecture, held in a nice dark quiet room!

So home we went, after an enjoyable morning, and although I didn't get my six geese a-laying, I did have an embossed owl and an engraved blackbird instead.

Ester Randell.

2.

OVERHEARD IN THE LADIES' LOO.... 'Yes, we've been nine times to Grasshopper St. John Rally -it's a nice zoo and then there's the free petrol.....!' AND 'My kitchen's been waiting for him to start since he retired in 1974...'

\*\*\*\*\*  
AVON SCOUTS

The small, impromptu gathering of engines at Bath University so ably chronicled earlier in this issue by Ester Randall has resulted in the following letter to our Secretary:-

'I am writing to thank you all very much for all the hard work you put in and without people like yourself such an event would be unthinkable. I hope that you were able to enjoy the experience as much as the Venture Scouts so obviously did. I must confess that there were times during the planning stages that I wondered if it was worth it! However, you only had to see the enjoyment that we were to give to over 400 young people to be left in no doubt at all that it was all worthwhile. Please extend many thanks to any people who took part in your particular activity'.

Richard Bennett (Asst. County Commissioner - Activities)

\*\*\*\*\*

A LOVELY MOVER....! A large collection of vintage machinery and engines was recently spotted on the move along the Trowbridge-Frome road as that itinerant immigrant into Somerset, Mr. Tone Jones, headed for his new home. Tony's many friends in the WSEC will be pleased to note his new address: 121 Marston Lane, Frome, Somerset, BA11 4DW. Tel. Frome 65189.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE JANUARY MEETING, 28th January 1985

Roy Pady from Devon entertained us at the Old Down Inn with a selection of his own cine films which he takes at events all over the West Country.

The Clubroom was packed to overflowing capacity, as anticipated for this meeting, and the evening proved most enjoyable. Claude and Jackie were kept busy handing out Newsletters and taking subscriptions respectively, until Roy commenced his show. The first film was of the 1983 London to Brighton Historic Commercial Vehicle run, commencing in Battersea Park with a Rally where we spotted Terry Heath and Keith Reader among the many stationary engine entrants. The film followed the fortunes of Gordon Adlam and company with the Foden wagon and included shots of many lovely lorries, notably an early normal control Albion, a Lacre road sweeper, numerous Sentinels, Foden Diesels, Leylands and many other makes. From Brighton we returned to the big city for the Trooping of the Colour; once again some superb filming with some of those shots which the TV never seem to catch in the same atmosphere. Tractor pulling was the theme of the next film, super shots once again and an excellent and knowledgeable commentary by Roy.

East Coker was the stage for his next film; centring around the new Village Hall and filmed to the theme of the song 'you never see a farmer on a bike', this was a delightful little film well worthy of an 'Oscar'.

During the break as we refilled our glasses - mainly to try and get away from Herb Gane's ever present book of raffle tickets, more subscriptions were renewed and members renewed acquaintances not seen since at least as far back as the Dinner/Dance in December. No one escaped Herb's 'net' however, and after the raffle was drawn, we dimmed the lights to enjoy a film of a Cornish Ploughing Match. Various makes of tractor were in evidence, from the earliest to the most up-to-date four wheel drive; Bunter Hill was enjoying himself with the 'High Cut' and some modern machinery showed just how efficient ploughing can be in the 1980's.

The penultimate film was a fairly lengthy one on 'birdwatching' and proved most popular with the Wessex audience. Roy had some beautiful close-up shots of Grey Wagtails, Goldfinches, a Comma butterfly, a small tortoiseshell and many real bits of nature. Into all this nature came a birdwatcher who erected his hide, got out his binoculars and waited. His patience was amply rewarded as another 'bird' entered the scene, eventually entering the water. This bird was unmistakably of the genus 'Paridae', the bare-fronted variety, a hush fell over the clubroom as she bathed at the waterfall.

Finally, a much requested repeat of 'Rivetting' a film of restoring a steam traction engine, which we have been treated to before, and which I'm sure, many of us could stand seeing again! At last I realised how those fly-ball governors worked....! For those newcomers to the scene, this was the much publicised 'Cindy' film; showing just what happens when Women's Lib. arrives on the restoration scene.

All too soon, the meeting was over and there was a marked reluctance to venture back out into the cold night air after one of the best and most well attended meetings we have ever held at Emborough. Thank you Roy Pady and family for the very worthwhile long drive and the incomparable entertainment.

Eric Brain

\*\*\*\*\*

OUT AND ABOUT - Monkton Farleigh Mine

The Bath Stone mines at Monkton Farleigh, near Bath, are an underground labyrinth covering some 80 acres where stone was quarried for building Buckingham Palace.



3.

During the Great War it was decided to use the mine as an underground store for ammunition; this proved so successful that during the thirties, it was developed into a proper ammunition top security dump, the largest in Europe.

For the first time ever, the site has been opened until Easter to the public every weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are at a loss for somewhere to spend an interesting afternoon out, we recommend this as an interesting visit, 90 feet down but not claustrophobic, well lit with some 25,000 bulbs, easy walking, and definitely 'out of the rain'. See the underground power house with a huge Ruston Hornsby VLR engine, the generator hall, switch room, narrow gauge railway, overhead catenary, giant air conditioning fans, miles and miles of tunnels, and other sophisticated plant used from 1930 until six months ago.

Approach from Bath to Bathford roundabout on the A4, signposted through Bathford village right to the site. For information telephone Bath 852400.

**YOU** will not be disappointed.....!

Ern Brassplate

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Before entering any rallies for 1985, we recommend that you turn to Stationary Engine Magazine, issue 123, May 1984, page 14 and read Mary Whitty's verse which says all there is to say about Engine Rallies. Also we ask that you think twice about entering **ANY** rally where an entrance fee is charged to the exhibitor.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Sept.7/8      | 'Yesterday's Farming', this year at Eleighwater, near Chard on a site adjacent to Hornsbury Mill. Always a great show; this year we are told, it promises to recapture the old atmosphere which some say, has been lost in recent years. |
| Aug.29/30/31  | The Great Dorset Steam Fair, Steaming Stourpaine. Hoping this year to be 'steaming & Sept.1st.hot' not 'steaming wet'!   |
| Aug.24/25/26  | Honiton Hill Rally, also Chapelton Barton Rally  |
| July 20/21    | Low Ham Rally  |
| July 13/14    | Kernow Old Vehicle Club Rally at Wadebridge  |
| July 13/14    | Hedington & Stockley Rally   |
| - April 5/6/7 | Abbey Hill Rally, Yeovil   |
| March 23      | Chippenham & District Pres.Soc. Bring and Buy Sale at Langley Burrell Village Hall, near Chippenham. Sorry no time stated!   |
| July 28/29    | Bleadon Rally, which proved so successful last year, same location. Details from Roy Cox   |
| May 26/27     | Market Lavington & Easterton Spring Fayre held on the playing field at Market Lavington. Details and entry forms from John Kyte, 10 High Street, Market Lavington, Wilts. Tel. Lavington 3701.   |
| June 8        | Draycott Strawberry Fayre. 12 Engines needed, no entry forms but please contact Brian Verrall, 2 Norville Place, Lower North Street, Cheddar 743460  |
| June 29/30    | Bath Steam Festival, Recreation Ground, Bath, Somerset   |
| June 30       | Wings & Wheels, Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset   |
| May 11/12     | Castle Combe Rally   |
| July 13/14    | Avon Steam Rally, Westerleigh Common, Yate, near Bristol   |
| July 13/14    | Wine Fair Rally, Bristol Docks   |

**Programmes:** Would any member not yet having a 1985 WSEC programme of events, the yellow card given to him/her on payment of his/her 1985 subscription, please contact Claude Lowther, Garthside, Wells Road, Hallatrow, near Bristol.

#### CLUB EVENTS

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| March 16   | This is the latest revised date of the Annual Wessex Jumble Sale to raise funds for the Club to give us 'cash flow' whilst we are waiting for all of you late rejoiners to pay your subs. Jumble, bric-a-brac. Help us all urgently needed. Come along with your items etc. to St.Petters Church Hall, Westfield, Norton Radstock on the 16th at 12 noon to help before we officially open to the public at 2 p.m. |
| March 25   | Club meeting at the Old Down Inn, a talk and slide show on the Bath Stone Quarries and their history by Paul Weaver.   |
| April 29   | Club visit to Blagdon Steam Pumping Station. Meet at the Yeo Reservoir 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. start.   |
| May 20     | The Annual Crank-Up at the Old Down Inn car park, a month earlier this year due to Club Rally next month. <b>NOT</b> the <b>LAST</b> Monday in May.  |
| June 15/16 | Wessex Rally at Longleat, held in conjunction with the Wilts Fire Engine Preservation Group; all forms of preservation will be represented and our Rally will be the Stationary Engine side of things. Entry forms have been sent out, we are  |

4.

limited by our hosts to 150 engines, camping will be available. **NO** cars, camping, trailers, junk, etc. will be allowed behind the exhibits. Entries will **CLOSE** no later than March 31st, please don't complain after that date, you have had four months to make up your mind and we have had an overwhelming response already, mainly from other Clubs....!

\*\*\*\*\*  
**FOR SALE**

Two Lister D-Types, one petrol, the other kerosene. £15 each. Tel Oakhill 840868, Bill Coombs.

Water-cooled Petter A-type, part dismantled but complete, £20 ono. Wolseley WD2, offers. Mr. White, Shute Farm, Maiden Bradley 382.

Lee model fair organ, 3 sections, 8' long x 3' high, £100; Fairbanks Morse Z 3 hp, open crank, 1916, £300; Fairbanks Morse Eclipse, 2 hp, with Dixie magneto and pump parts, £200; Bradford Amanco 2 hp, with WICO EK magneto, £120; International M type, 3 hp, good condition and on trolley, £225; Lister L-type, 5 hp, good condition on trolley, £85; Trolley for Lister L or J type, 1926, £35; One-Arm Bandit, fruit machine, taking sixpenny pieces, £40; Quantity of sixpenny pieces at face value approx. £20. Graham Escott, 21 Forest Road, Melksham, Tel. 0225-704969 eveninga, 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

Lister D-type, 1 hp at 500 rpm, unrestored, complete £25; Petter M-type, very complete but slightly frosted, has been recently run, mounted on Petterlite base, interesting potential restoration project, £85 ono; JAP 3 hp, on metal trolley coupled to a Ransome-Rapier water pump, engine fit for spares only, £15; About 25 gallons of original Sentinal steam cylinder oil, someone somewhere will desperately want it so put the word around, offers invited; Very early BSA Bantam motorcycle frame, £20; Various lengths of line shafting and pulleys, offers. Contact Phil Harris, Stoney Lane House, Cocklake, Wedmore 712048.

BMC Ex-GPO Van, motor camper, FG 420 J-Reg. very good condition and taxed to October 1st, MOT to September, £700 ono including radio and CB radio. Apply to Len Fry, 17b Festival Avenue, Salisbury, Wilts. Tel. 24273.

#### **WANTED**

Information, manuals, adverts, **ANYTHING** on Bentall Engines and associated plant. Contact Mark Tilly, 3 Tellcroft Close, Corsham, Wilts. 712854.

Complete switchboard with all necessary gauges, switches, regulators, etc., which would suit the engine on my lorry, the Blackstone that is...! Could exchange for a smaller unit, GEC complete, this is also a battery charger; Governor weights and brackets for a Petter 1½ M-type or New Model; Also a starting handle for same. Phil Harris, address as above.

Pulley for Lister A-type, single flywheel, No's B77 or B76 to complete restoration, Bill Coombs, Oakhill 840868.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PRESENTATION**

We are deeply indebted to Diana Emery for her hard work on our behalf over the past six years as Secretary of this Club. Members will be pleased therefore to know that she was presented, at the last committee meeting, with a small keepsake in recognition of her efforts. This took the form of a paperweight in perspex with a dandelion clock encapsulated inside, hard to describe but really beautiful. Diana retires at the AGM - very many thanks from all the Club and Committee.