

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

February 1987

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The recent restoration-hampering bout of bad weather had done absolutely nothing to enhance the flow of material for this Newsletter; it seems that the 'paint brush is mightier than the pen' in stationary engine club member's hands! Consequently, I have dug back into the early Newsletters to find some little snippets to amuse new and old members alike!

Cranky Quotes

'We all took turns keeping Mike Cannon's Tangye blow-lamp pumped up and I'm sure Mike will be pleased to hear that our burned fingers are pretty well healed up by now!'. (April 1977)

'.....and whilst investigating the intricacies of turning over onto kerosene, the left-hand flywheel complete with key detached itself and went bowling off into the distance.....We all left the field after a thoroughly good day' (April 1977).

'It was noticeable that the Ladies Keep-Fit Display attracted more WSEC members than vice-versa....!' (June 1977).

First time campers.....were kept amply warm by some thoughtful club members who surrounded the couple's nocturnal quarters with a wall of hay. The recipient couple showed their gratitude by helping everyone wake up at 6.00 a.m.....' (August 1977).

'As always, please remember that the WSEC is your Club; don't wait to be asked to do your bit' (October 1977).

'.....any offers of articles, member's memoos, rally reports....even honeymoon reports would be welcome.....' (November 1977).

'Upon accepting the position of Chairman of the Club, I soon found I had inherited an unusual collection of paraphernalia; the most interesting part being a plastic Marks & Sparks carrier bag containing five reels of Christmas bunting, 2½ litres of tomato ketchup, 2 jars of English mustard, 72 paper cups, 1500 tea bags and a copy of the Club Constitution!.....I must just add that my whole domestic life has been threatened by the prospective delivery of about 15 cwts of assorted jumble which, I have been reliably informed by the previous encumbant, is the responsibility of the Chairman.....' (March 1978).

'The engine owners took part in the Welly-Throwing Championships, but were put to shame by their children's efforts....!' (June 1978).

'My Bamford just went 'BAM!' my Petter just won't pet, my Lister's listing badly and my Bulldog's at the Vet!' (The Stationary Engine Blues, June 1978).

'One or two short tempers and raised voices caused unpleasantness at the plaque distribution tables which closed the weekend on a sour note for some. Such a pity!' (July 1978)

'.....the first engine burst into life, then a protesting donkey in a nearby field loudly voiced his opinion over the gate before retreating to the far end'. (August 1978)

'.....a well-known respected officer of the committee, was seen surreptitiously passing around a copy of Mayfair (vol.14, No.3.)!'. (April 1979).

'.....our Club Teeshirt salesman, did brisk trade during the weekend having his wares displayed pegged out on a length of washing line. Sunday morning saw a few rather more delicate and feminine additions to his display, presumably the spoils of some Saturday night conquest!' (Sept.1979).

'Towards the end of the evening, many of the members were to be seen applying agricultural science, appropriately in the form of liquid fertiliser, to one of the (Lackham) College's trees.....and to an unfortunate hedgehog, who emerged grumbling from the shadows and scurried off....!'. (Sept.1979).

'....we successfully loaded the engine, secured it with ropes and set off home....but not before Herbie had eaten all my sandwiches and drunk my coffee'. (November 1979).

DISCOVERY OF A GARDNER ENGINE

Whilst doing some running adjustments to the Lister Junior that I had just finished rebuilding, I looked up to see a stranger standing at the gate. He said 'I thought I heard an old engine running - mind if I come in and have a look?'. So ended the work period of that cold December day. The rest of the afternoon was spent discussing engines and wallowing in nostalgia whilst the Lister chugged merrily on.

I discovered that he lived in London and was staying with friends nearby. 'There's an old engine in the blacksmith's yard near my home' he said 'hasn't been used for years. It's quite big with a horizontal cylinder'. 'Oh, do you know what it is exactly?', I enquired, trying hard not to sound too enthusiastic. 'That's all I know' he said, 'but I'll try and find out for you if you like'.

Several months later, when I had almost given up all hope of hearing from him, a note was pushed through the letter box which stated Gardner 4½ hp gas engine, one ton, 1923, £2000 and a phone number. After phone calls to the owner and a couple of Club members, I was still uncertain of the exact size and weight of the engine. A critical factor was deciding whether to hire a tow-car and trailer to make the journey to London but having been informed by John Thorne that the asking price was quite low if the engine was in reasonable condition, I decided to take a chance and make the trip.

We arrived at our destination and after brief introductions, were ushered into a small workshop. The engine wasn't the rusting hulk I had imagined but was very well preserved. It turned out to be 7½ hp and 1930 vintage, although it was 16 cwt. it was quite manageable, when dismantled. Minor frost damage, a broken oiler and shattered white metal main bearings were the only faults. A price was negotiated and the pieces loaded onto the trailer. I then settled down to an uneventful return journey, well satisfied with the day's events and thought to myself 'one of the most rewarding and satisfying facets of our hobby has got to be the recovery of an engine!'.

Tony Marlow

THE MONTHLY MEETING - January 1987

As this was the first meeting of 1987 it was very pleasing to see such a good number of Club members present, plus some new faces of, we hope, potential new members. The Chairman opened the meeting and introduced Philip Thornton-Evison from Grove, near Oxford, who was to show us some of his slides of Stationary engines which he has photographed at rallies all round the country. The rallies included Amberley Chalk Pits, Beaulieu, Longleat, Woburn, Stourpaine and Tatton Park.

As each slide was presented, Philip gave a very knowledgeable commentary with a description and, where possible, as much information as he could gather from the owners. The engines shown in the slides ranged from Amanco, Blackstone, Crossley, etc., an engine for each letter of the alphabet except Q, X and Z.

During the interval, Herbie held his monthly raffle with prizes going to Mary Verrall, bottle of wine; Wendy Gane, steel rule; and Jeremy Adams, pair of scissors. When the interval was over, some more slides were shown including some of Steam Engines at Stourpaine. The meeting ended around 10.30 p.m.; our thanks to Philip for a well presented and interesting evening.

Brian & Mary Verrall

THIS 'N THAT MEMBERSHIP

Members joining or re-joining the Club between monthly meetings and who do not provide a sae, will receive their Insurance Certificates with the next month's Newsletter. The certificate is your only proof of paid-up membership and, in effect, is a receipt of payment. Should you not receive a Newsletter or have any doubt of its regularity - it usually arrives during the week following a Monthly Meeting - the Club Postal Despatch Officer is Claude Lowther, 'Garthside', Wells Rd., Hallatrow, Nr. Bristol. Tel. (0761)52714.

NEWSLETTER

Members sending in material for this Newsletter are advised that their articles, free adverts, etc., must be received no later than the week following any monthly meeting in order that it can be processed by the Editor and our Printer. Send to Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol. Tel. (0761)52633.

OBITUARY

We are sad to record the death of Keith Sharpe, aged 24 years, of the Sodbury Vale Group of the Vintage Tractor & Engine Club after a painful illness. Many of our members who attended the local rallies will have known him when, accompanied by his brother he used to rally a Lister D complete with Fred, the threadbare bear mascot. The Club extends its deepest sympathy to David and, indeed all the family in their tragic loss.

JUMBLE SALE

The annual fund-raising jumble sale as mentioned last month, will take place at a different venue to previous years, because the usual one was destroyed in a fire! As a Club such as ours needs considerable funds to survive, we would be grateful for jumble, bric-a-brac, or any offers of help on the day. The new venue will be the Westhill Sports Hall, Westhill Road, Radstock and the date remains the same as previously advertised, Saturday 14th March at 2.00 p.m. Doors open to helpers at 12 noon. Please help. (Near the Fire Station, next to the Football Club).

CLUB SALES

Lapel badges are still available from most committee members and are very good quality and still priced at only £1.

Sweat shirts are available in a tasteful light grey colour bearing the Wessex Wyvern Logo on the left breast. We have all sizes selling at £6.50 only plus postage 50p each. Also available are Tee-Shirts in a similar colour, £3.50 plus 50p postage. Orders to Shirley Gale, 18 Church Lane, North Bradley, Trowbridge or Jackie Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Som. Please state size required.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For those who have not yet coughed up their money for 1987, this is a gentle reminder that annual dues are due. £5 single membership, £6 family or joint and £1 for Juniors under 18 years. If you have not yet paid but are fortunate enough to be still receiving this Newsletter, make the most of it as it could well be the last until we see the colour of your money.....!

WANTED

Fifteen to twenty interesting engines for Southwick and North Bradley Annual Scouts Fete at Southwick near Trowbridge on June 27th 1987 at 12 noon. This is their 10th anniversary (and ours...!) and one of the best fetes I have attended. If you are coming, please write or phone Tony Jones as soon as possible at 121 Marston Lane, Frome, Som. Tel. Frome 65189 after 6.30 p.m.

Tony mentions that he is currently back on the restoration scene, this time he is restoring an old mangle dated around 1910 so perhaps as an added attraction at the above Fete we may see the return of those famous rally shorts; this time with razor sharp creases and turn-ups.

SKITTLES MATCH

The annual Inter-Club Skittles Match at the Brook House Inn, between Castle Cary and Shepton Mallet, takes place on Saturday, March 7th starting about 7.30 p.m. Last year we were defeated by the South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Club so come along and help turn the tables! You don't have to be an expert at skittles but it is an enjoyable social evening. We look forward to seeing you all there.

COACH TRIP

By popular request we are arranging a trip to the Science Museum at West Kensington, London. This will be Saturday, March 28th and will depart from the Badgerline Bus Station, London Road, Bath at 7.30 a.m., Old Down Inn at 8.00 a.m., Frome Market Place 8.20 a.m. and Trowbridge Town Centre 8.40 a.m. Thence via Devizes and the A4. Pick-up points can be arranged anywhere between these stages. The cost is very reasonable at £3.50 per adult, £3.00 per child. Please send your remittance and requested pick-up point to Mrs. R. Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Som. and make cheques payable to The Wessex Stationary Engine Club. A pub-restaurant has been arranged for meals, etc. on the return journey and we hope to arrive back at the Old Down Inn at around 10.00 p.m.

TO PAINT?..... OR NOT TO PAINT?

The fifty or so members of this restoration and preservation Club who were quoted in the January 'Stationary Engine' as deploring the Chairman's decision not to properly complete the restoration of his 'Victoria' are considering a 'whip-round' to buy him a tin of Pillar Box Red. Donations to the Treasurer please.....!

FOR SALE

Single furrow plough specially made by Ransomes for an Allis Chalmers model B tractor with bench seat, manual not hydraulic. R.C. Pilgrim, 1 Main Rd., North Burlingham, Norwich.
Lister D driving Phoenix pump, no magneto. £25 ono. Bill Coombs - Oakhill 840868.
Lister Diesel, single flywheel type, plus small crawler tractor similar to Ransomes in Eddy Rossiter's scrapyard at Pyllle, near Shepton Mallet. Graham Raymond, 35 Wilton Dr., Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel. (02214)64579.
 Velocette LE, 90% complete but no log book. £25. B.G. Reakes, Tel. Keynsham 68549.
Norman T300 and generator unit, magneto overhauled. £60; **Petter AV1** diesel, 3 hp seized and with some frost damage, £25; **Bamford Roller/Grinder Mill** in original very good condition, £30; **Bamford Grinding Mill** in very good condition, £25. Brian Verrall, 2 Northville Place, Lower North Street, Cheddar, Som. Tel. (0934)743460.
1952 Ferguson T20, transport box and PTO Pulley. To clear offers over £50. Stan Prosser, Oakleaze, Compton Martin. Tel. West Harptree 221473.
Myford ML4 metal working lathe 3½" swing, 21" bed, 3-jaw chuck, face-plate and driver, set of screwcutting changewheels, various other attachments, £200. Phone Bath 834127 (evenings. Jeremy Adams).

WANTED

Details of the throttle/governor linkage on a 'modern' Villiers engine, ser.no.D15 07 01 76099. Any help appreciated. Jim Miller, 15 Hodson Road, Chiseldon, Swindon, Wilts.
Tandem trailer with mini-wheels. 8ft. x 6ft, Please state price. Buyer will collect. Len Fry, 17 Festival Ave., Salisbury, Wilts. Tel.24273.
Small water pump suitable for Wolseley WD to drive by a Junior member. Please phone Neil Puttick, Frome 65472.
External brass fuel filter and fuel pipes for Lister D type. Graham Raymond, 35 Wilton Drive, Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel. (02214)64579.
Douglas twin stationary engine. R.G. Reakes, Tel. Keynsham 68549.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Yesterday's Farming, 12/13 Sept. 1987 at Leaze Farm, Hazelbury Plucknett, Crewkerne, Som.
Stourpaine or the Great Dorset Steam Fair as it is occasionally called! is on Sept.4/5/6.
Bleadon Steam Country Fayre, August 8/9.
Moorland Rally, near Bridgewater, June 20/21.
West Dorset Rally, near Bridport, June 13/14.
Cricket St.Thomas Rally, May 24/25, details from Bill Foster, Fourways, Sandley, Gillingham, Dorset.
Selwood Pres.Group Rally at Longleat, May 30/31. Details from Bill Foster (address as above).
Tatton Park Rally, Cheshire, just off the M6 and **NOT** to be missed.If you used to enjoy Beaulieu and Longleat Rallies, then this is the one to enter, June 27/28. Free camping from June 22 onwards. SAE to P. Gallimore, 17 Chelford Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 3LG.
Amberley Chalk-Pits Museum Rally, Sunday May 16. SAE to Ian Simpson, Chalk Pits Museum, Amberley, Arundel, West Sussex before 18 April. Worth a visit.

CLUB EVENTS

Skittles Match	(Wessex v Yesterday's Farming) at the Brookhouse Inn. See page 3. Saturday, March 7th at 7.30 p.m.
Jumble Sale	Westhill Sports Hall, Westhill Road, Wells Road, Radstock. March 14th at 2.00 p.m.
Coach Trip	March 28th. Leave Old Down Inn at 8.00 a.m. See details elsewhere in this Newsletter.
Monthly Meeting	March 30th. Brian Lovell 'Going Dutch'. Slide show of the rallying adventures in Holland.
Monthly Meeting	April 27th. John Kyte and friends. Talk on the recovery and back-garden installation of his 300 hp Bush engine. Also a welcome special 10th Anniversary celebratory appearance of David Edgington of the 'Stationary engine' magazine.
Bristol Docks Rally	May 16/17. One of the most enjoyable of the year. Form with this Newsletter.