

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1997

Please send Newsletter material to:-
The Editor,
Brian Baker,
27 Wickham Way,
SHEPTON MALLET,
Somerset. BA4 5YG.

Telephone (01749) 342671

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EDITORIAL

We are all aware of safety on the rally field when running stationary engines, but what about safety OFF the field? A recent report in the Western Daily Press told how an engine enthusiast died as a result of running his Lister 'D' in an enclosed workshop. Mr. Eric Partridge of Amberley, Nr. Stroud had been working on the engine and had it running, and the Carbon Monoxide exhaust gas had built up enough to prove fatal. So please take care at all times. The watchword is common sense and not take anything for granted. Safe and happy rallying to you all in 1997.

*** GET WELL SOON ***

The Wessex Club members would like to send best wishes to Brian Lovell who faces the daunting prospect of going into hospital in the near future for major heart surgery. Our thoughts are with you for a successful operation and a speedy recovery afterwards and we all look forward to seeing you and 'HENRY' back on the rally field in the summer.

NEW MEMBERS

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club would like to extend a hearty welcome to the following new members.

Mr. Colin Baker of Shepton Mallet. Mr. F.W. Biggs of Midsomer Norton. Mr. Nigel Cox of Cranmore. Mr. & Mrs. Colin Busby of Shipham. Mr. J. Parsons of Castle Cary. Mr. S. Parsons of Hamworthy, Poole. Mr. K. Trevitt of Sherborne, Dorset. Mr. & Mrs. J. Carpenter of Weston-super-Mare. Mr. & Mrs. L.J. Snook of Midsomer Norton and Mr. & Mrs. B.C. Doel of Maiden Bradley, Nr. Warminster. We wish you a long and happy association with our club.

*** FUTURE EVENTS ***

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| MON MARCH ^{24th} 23rd | - CLUB NIGHT - TALK BY JOHN DANDO ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF CARNIVAL FLOATS. |
| MON MARCH 31st | - EASTER MONDAY - MELLS DAFFODIL DAY AT MELLS, NR. FROME. FOR DETAILS RING ROBIN LAMBERT ON FROME 01373 463526. |
| SUN APRIL 13th | - WESSEX SPRING COACH TRIP TO JOE POWELLS WORKSHOPS AT ASHTON KEYNES. COACH WILL LEAVE THE OLD DOWN CAR PARK AT 12.00 O'CLOCK SHARP. BOOK YOUR SEAT NOW - JACKIE LAMBERT ON FROME 01373 463526. |
| APRIL 19th & 20th | - ZEALS RALLY AT MERE, WILTS. FOR DETAILS RING 01747 840539. |
| APRIL 26th & 27th | - CREECH ST. MICHAEL COUNTRY FAYRE - AT CREECH ST. MICHAEL, NEAR TAUNTON. FOR ENTRY FORMS RING 01823 443877. |

Dear Ed.,

Having been badgered by yourself during the rally season or as and when our paths cross, "when am I going to get something from you for the newsletter"? I have decided to write a report of my rallying and comments on different rallies attended during 1996 and call it "One Mans Summer".

ALAN VICARY.

ONE MANS SUMMER - PART ONE

Our season, My Wife Barb and myself started this year at the THREE OAKFORDS RALLY at Shillingstone in Dorset. This one was a first for us, so all loaded and ready to go we set off for Dorset with an open mind on what to expect, but on arrival any doubts were soon pushed away. We were greeted by a very polite happy chap who guided us to our campsite and where the stationary engine section was. Owing to fading light we decided to set up camp first and worry about the engines in the morning.

The weekend proved to be a great success with plenty to do and see, with the highlight of the weekend being the sight of the Sentinel Timber Wagon in the ditch after I believe the regulator broke off. All in all a very pleasant weekend and we will be back for us to start off next years season. Well done Three Oakfords Preservation Society.

ALAN VICARY.

The following weekend 4th, 5th, 6th May at the Abbey Hill Rally at Yeovil.

This is a brilliant rally, really well organised by Derek Bowles and crew. On arrival this year, as with other years unless you can arrive before and mark out your spot you are unable to find a vacant place. While searching the line and passing a few lighthearted comments with well known and familiar faces i.e. Mo and Glad Duke, Ken and Ann Jenkins to name a few, I spotted our friends Custom Camper van from Exmouth, John & Polly White, I knocked on the door, the door opens and there for all to see was John dressed in pyjamas, socks and a hot water bottle getting into bed. Well. I - issed myself laughing, and I had fun the next day telling all who know John what I had seen the night before, this created a lot of banter over the weekend and was enjoyed by all including John.

The weekend continued with quite a lot going on with most sections full. A very good trade section supported by Autojumble stands. On Monday an auction which was well supported by rubbish discarded by autojumlbers and household crap, but nevertheless someone buys it. The Stationary Engine section was full and had to be extended to allocate space for the daytime exhibitors who chose to go home at night. There was certainly a cross section of exhibits, Listers, Amanco's, Petters, Bamfords, Crossleys, Wolseleys, Rustons, Fairbanks, Mike Blake with his Empire, a lovely well restored engine, and his mate Bill with his beautifully restored Pioneer. Well done the Saltash boys, and thanks to Derek Bowles and co. for a lovely weekend.

P.S. At this rally I first encountered the "Stationary, Stationary" Ruston 4½ PB. Belonging to ????. I bet he doesn't print this bit.

ALAN VICARY.

12th May - Hazelbury Bryan Rally.

For anybody who has never been to this one day rally should make an effort because it is well organised and very well supported, with engines, tractors, cars, commercials, motor cycles and cycles, and a very good car boot sale, with all these combined it attracts a very good public gate and supports the charity for which it is run. A lovely enjoyable weekend in the beautiful County of Dorset.

ALAN VICARY.

Selwood Rally - Rode Bird Gardens - 25th May.

Having had a weekend off, our next rally was on the 25th May at Rode Bird Gardens near Trowbridge in Wiltshire, run by the Selwood Club. When we arrived on the Friday evening it was immediately apparent that the site layout was an improvement on the previous year and certainly a lot better. Our section was full but luckily for me my mate Burt Holloway from Fawley had arrived before me and had saved me a spot, had I arrived on the Sat. morning the situation would have been different and would have probably resulted in a monumental journey due to the location of the overflow site, situated on a very undesirable slope. Nevertheless the weekend went well, with the rally being well supported as it was at Longleat House, but certainly deserves more support from the public. B.B. was there and many others we have made friends with over the years, Albert Critchill, Roy Davis, Roy & Ivor Cox and of course Mo Duke with his bloody cider jar. Oh, before I close this one, that "Stationary, Stationary" Engine was there again posing with a shining paint job.

ALAN VICARY.

TO BE CONTINUED.

**** THE 37TH CARRINGTON RALLY ****

This rally was held over Sunday and Monday 26th and 27th May at White House Farm, Carrington, Nr. Bourton, Lincolnshire. Saturday 25th of this Spring Bank Holiday was sale day with a vintage auction, car boot sale and a vintage vehicle road run. Fred Dibnah - steeplejack of TV fame opened the show and was seen by the large crowds on his beloved steam roller. The traction engines, steam rollers, steam tractors, road loco's and showman's engines had their place along one side of the main ring, crafts, bygone, model and refreshment tents along another. Classic, vintage and commercial vehicles had a position next to the oil engines. About 120 stationary engines in the line up. Mr. Quincey's 1899 Hornsby Ackroyd Hot-bulb ran very well, later on in the year I saw them at the Great Dorset Steam Fair, running just as well. Other engines of note were a nice 1922 John Deere E 1½ hp, a 1922 National J, a 1904 Petter Hot-bulb and a 1919 Lindsey Alamo 2¼ hp., Lister, Petter and Ruston Hornsby filled most of the lines. Next to the fair was a section of 50 years of Field Marshalls and a very large tractor section of 154 exhibits. Some of the very best you could wish to see. International Juniors from 1919, International Moguls from 1916, a 1919 Garner, several Hart-Parrs from 1920, overtune, 1917, a nice Sanderson G 1920, a Avery 1916, a Heider 1919 to mention just a few. But the Wyles Motor Plough 1914 owned by R.H. Crawford & Son was the highlight for me. Sunday saw in the events, The Church Service with Mareham Le-Fen Silver Band. Fred Dibnah opening the show followed by parades of tractors, traction engines, motorcycles and commercials. An American Football match and wrestling matches. Mondays events had a parade of Centurion Tanks and Allied Forces, followed by cars, commercials and motorcycles, led by Holbeach Community Band. The finale was the parade of the veteran tractors which was enjoyed by visitors and exhibitors and drew a large crowd.

12 organs were dotted about the showground, camping was good, on level ground. Once again, a well organised rally which is growing year by year with many extra exhibits and attractions of interest to all.

RICHARD COWELL.

WESSEX CHRISTMAS COMPETITION - ANSWERS.

- 1) A man of enormous strength - HERCULES.
- 2) A Town in West Yorkshire - BRADFORD.
- 3) A dress with a high waist line and straight loose skirt - EMPIRE.
- 4) A giant sports match between two or more nations - INTERNATIONAL TITAN.
- 5) Sounds like a male run firm - AMANCO.
- 6) Could this be a mechanical bar of chocolate - AEROMOTOR.
- 7) Do this American actor and son use this system of communication - FAIRBANKS MORSE.
- 8) In 1865 he demonstrated that carbolic acid was an effective antiseptic agent - LISTER.
- 9) A winning industrial city in the West Midlands - COVENTRY VICTOR.
- 10) Dark and Hard - BLACKSTONE.
- 11) This candle is in battle with a bird of prey - WARWICK EAGLE.
- 12) Re-arrange the flower display - FOWLER.
- 13) A tall evergreen fir tree - DOUGLAS.
- 14) Wisdom is his surname - NORMAN.
- 15) A famous street in New York city plus a male head servant - MADISON BUTLER.
- 16) A male swan has been hatched - COBORN.
- 17) Very fast on land and water - CAMPBELL.
- 18) Not a happy meadow - CROSSLEY.
- 19) A Royal lathe operator - STUART TURNER.
- 20) This one may come to your rescue with brandy but to you he is no saint - BERNARD.

It was not necessary for the winning entry to be picked at the January Club night as it turned out only one entry had the highest number of correct answers and that member was Mr. P. Marshall, from Timsbury, Nr. Bath. Congratulations Mr. Marshall.

My sincere thanks to all the members who managed to work out most of the answers, I hope you had as much fun working them out as I had in putting it all together. MARY BUTLER.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions are now overdue. This will be the last newsletter you will receive if your subscription for 1997 is still unpaid. Also any event you attend you will not be covered by insurance.

**** CORRECTION ****

THE DATE FOR THE MARCH CLUB NIGHT SHOULD READ MONDAY MARCH 24TH AND NOT MARCH 31ST (BANK HOLIDAY) AS PRINTED IN THE 'PROGRAMME OF EVENTS'.

*** THE TALE OF A SET OF SCALES - OR IS IT? ***

This tale started about five years ago.... I was travelling home from Togg Hill, Nr. Bristol, the radio in the van was tuned to BBC Wiltshire Sound, in those days Wiltshire Sound ran a programme called Monday Market. My ears pricked up when a lady came on advertising a set of old scales with brass weights. She lived in Hullavington village, Nr. Chippenham. The scales would be just the thing to go with my old corn mill, this is driven by my 2½ H.P. open crank Bamford of 1920. I remembered the telephone number (this must be a first for me as I don't usually remember phone numbers). I telephoned the lady as soon as I got home 'Yes they were still for sale I was the first to ring, so I arranged to go and see the scales. I found the cottage in the village and very soon the scales were mine, just as I was about to leave I was asked 'What are you going to do with my scales? my dear' I told her and her husband that I intended to display them at steam and vintage rallies with my old corn mill with freshly ground flour in the scoop on the scales, great interest was shown and I was told to sit down and very soon a cup of tea was in my hand. I was then asked about our hobby and the different events I visited. After about half an hour of questions I was told to sit where I was and the dear lady went into another room, after a short while she returned with a broad smile on her face, now my dear you are to go up the village until you see the bus shelter on the green, you will see a large farmhouse behind the green, Mr. Freeman is waiting to see you. I was dumbfounded, what's this about I asked, and she said we know Mr. Freeman has an old engine on his farm he wants to sell so I have just given him a call so off you go and see what you can do. With much thanks for their kindness and help I left to find the farm. Thinking to myself I hope its not a Lister 'D' type, now please don't get me wrong there ain't nowt wrong with a Lister 'D' type, but I did not want another at this time. I soon found the said farm and knocked at the door, come on in was the greeting 'You come about the engine, Yes I replied - well I ain't going up the yard tonight, too dark and cold, if you would like to come back Sunday you can have a look. 'Can you tell me what type of engine it is?' I asked. 'Lister, don't know the type'. 'One or two flywheels' queried. Two was the reply. My hopes rose at this point and arrangements were made for the coming Sunday. Sunday morning dawned and about 8.30 a certain Bedford Midi van could be seen heading along the A361 bound for Chippenham and then onto Hullavington. I arrived at about 10 o'clock, Midi vans are not the fastest things on the road and are far from the most reliable but thats another story. I was met at the farm by Mr. Freeman and his son, we set off for the wood yard, this is where the engine was said to be and there under a waterproof sheet and a tin cover stood the prettiest little Lister 'B' type you could wish for. My first question was does it run?, Yes was the reply. In less time than it takes to tell, petrol was turned on, handle on drive shaft and after about three swings the Lister was making sweet music to an engine mans ears. Now it was asking price time, a figure was mentioned and I went all cold and my wallet would not leave my pocket. I made an offer, make it another ten and its yours. So I did and I became the owner of a 1934 Lister 'B' type. The engine had spent all its working life in Hullavington village being first sold to the local Mr. Fixit, a chap who had a workshop in which he repaired bicycles, recharged accumulators for the village radio's and did other repair work, the Lister drove a dynamo for lighting the workshop and charging batteries. It was then sold to the local hurdle maker where it spent its time driving a saw bench. The engine once more moved home to the farm, here it was put to work driving the milk pump, it was quite happy doing this work until it was replaced by one of those fancy new fangled diesel engines. The little Lister 'B' type was once again back to wood cutting duties, until a chap with a blue van loaded it up and brought it back to a garage in Trowbridge. I have yet to restore the engine but that will not be a bad job as the engine is in very good mechanical condition, it will need a new fuel tank, I may be alright with this as I hear a nice man down Nr. Street in darkest Somersetshire may be able to help.

E.J. GAY.

FOR SALE - TWO TURNER DIESEL V TWIN STATIONARY ENGINES. FOR SALE £75 THE TWO.
***** RING IVAN TINKNELL ON GLASTONBURY 01458 832132.

FOR SALE - INSTANT RALLY EXHIBIT. WOLSELEY WD2. REVERSE ROTATION. CLASS 1 CONDITION.
***** FULLY RESTORED AND TROLLEY MOUNTED. £90.
TEL: 01235 769441. (NR. OXFORD).