

Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. January 1983

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***** HEDDINGTON AND STOCKLEY SOCIAL EVENING

This is an annual event, usually held in October and, I believe, all the exhibitors at the Heddington and Stockley Rally held earlier in the year, are invited. We all gathered in the hall, bought a pint and took our seats for the first part of the evening which was a film show of Stourpaine and included the famous Oxo and Bisto oxen getting ready to travel to the show. Although many people present had seen it before, it was nice to see it through again. The next half an hour was taken up by small sketches on stage, acted by the Spotlight Players from Chippenham. By this time, we were all ready for the very ample supper that was brought around, plus a cup of coffee each. This was very welcome and was followed by the draw with some useful prizes.

The evening was then rounded off with more film which was most interesting. (As reported last month - see Harry's Miscellanea. Ed.). We wish they had put these on first as we had to leave before the end. All in all, a very nice evening, and grateful thanks to the organisers. Incidentally, I can vouch for the fact that Harry Champion has a letter from Buckingham Palace as he attended the Social Evening and we were privileged to see the very official looking reply to his request.

Jackie Lambert

***** CLUB JUMBLE SALE - DECEMBER 4th

Once again it was the time of the Great Wessex Jumble Sale held as always at Westfield, near Radstock. From about noon, there was the usual hive of activity, as all the boxes of old clothes, bric-a-brac, etc. were brought in by car, van, trailer and so on. A good deal of sorting of goodies resulted in some being snapped up by the Wessex ladies before the mad rush started at 2.00p.m.; some 90% of the clothes were for the fairer sex. Herbie the Raffle was there as usual, selling his tickets and a few of the prizes were won by our members. As in past years, the Dring family were 'volunteered' to collect the massive order of fish & chip lunches. There was a slight panic when with 15 minutes to go before 'lift-off' Rod hadn't returned. We thought he had gone to Brixham to catch the fish. Jackie Lambert supplied us with all the tea and coffee. Tom Randall arrived with lots of books. Don Rogers and Tony Jones manned the door but we think numbers were a little down on last year. Also present were Chairman, Ian Skuse and family, Tom Randall and family, Mike and Jane Cannon, Eric and Ann Brain, Diana, John and Steve Emery, Joanne, Chris and Don Rogers (who went home with a nice steam-radio to run off his Petter Oil Sprayer), Herb and daughter, Reg and Mary Butler with Stephen, Jackie and Tina Lambert, and of course, Tony Jones. We don't know whether he came looking for frying pans or a young lady but he went away with a couple of nice jumpers and a copy of Fanny Hill in his pocket. (This latter item had previously been inspected and subsequently discarded by a junior member who didn't know I had spotted him. Ed.). The one thing that made my day was being able to go up to Herb and get him to hand over 10p for the raffle to guess how much we took! Tony Jones guessed nearest... £79.18. This was a little down on last year but well worth the effort even with the expenses taken out of it.

At about 3.30 we sorted out some good stuff for next year and the rest for an irate Rag and Bone man from Bath. Poor old Eric had his ear bent by this merchant because he did not collect enough to pay his petrol, well even rag and bone men don't get much for nothing these days!!! My uncontrolled laughter at this last incident resulted in a penance to be paid..... namely writing this report for the Newsletter. Anyway, a very enjoyable and worthwhile afternoon soon passed and we were on our way home.

Sausage Machine Munt

***** DINNER AND DANCE - NOVEMBER 27th

THE day dawned at last!! We had been looking forward to the Club Dinner and to meeting our friends again. We had a good journey to Frome, thank goodness. Herb Gane and his wife were trying to get in when we arrived at the Masonic Hall. The door was soon opened and I went to the ladies cloakroom where I met Marion Wilson and Shirley Heath. We all went to the dining room where we were offered a free glass of sherry which we accepted before being joined by Adrian Stride and two of his sons, Paul and Kevin. We were pleased to see Bill Foster who I had the pleasure of sitting next to. We noticed there were no Christmas Crackers on the table. After the waitresses had brought the soup, turkey we thought...but no...it was roast beef...!! Roast beef, yorkshire pud., sprouts, peas and carrots, followed by apple tart and cream, or gateau. Then cheese and biscuits, fruit and coffee, followed by a chocolate mint. All very enjoyable but not what we had expected for a Christmas Dinner. (I must interject here Rene, the Club Dinner & Dance has previously had Christmas fare because it happened to be very close to the Christmas Season. This year, however, it fell in November; what sort of meal would you expect if we had held it in, say, March? It is, after all, a Club Social Evening, a chance to

meet off the rally field sans engine, boilersuit, etc. Ed). After an amusing speech by our Chairman, Ian Skuse, our President, David Edgington, followed with an apt poem naming a few of our members. The speeches over, the tables were cleared BUT there was NO toast to the Queen!! (A GLARING omission, our sincere apologies but in the heat of the moment...!Ed.). When the music started, did our ears get deafened by it, but the dancers seemed to enjoy it even though it was impossible to have any sort of conversation with our friends. After the raffle was drawn, we beat a hasty retreat to the comparative peace of the cloakroom and then off home.

Could we please have the President's poem printed in the Newsletter for those members unable to attend?

Rene and Len Fry

We'd like to make amends, dear Rene, for November's frightful din,
So in this issue 'twill be seen, the last request is in.....!! Ed.

THE FATE OF OLD HARRY

(Any similarity between persons mentioned, living, dead, or otherwise, is purely coincidental...!)

This is the tale of Old Harry, who lived in the village of Tuck
His lorry and what it did carry, earned his living and brought him good luck.
By now you will have guessed his job, he carted loads of farmyard muck
and sold them on for a good few bob, to the villagers of Tuck.

About his hobby we make no bones, girls and engines, like Tony Jones!
Once a year he'd take his mate, and wash the lorry for the Village Fate.
Load a Hornsby, dynamo and all, onto the flat-bed, nice and tall
The generator, pretty old, was an open type by Lucas and Bold.

The wiring, was it good? Oh no. We've all seen better by Ivor Yeo.
Harry's house was equally bad, to see the ring main made one sad
Even the meter was full of dirt, "Call out the SEB" said Robin Lambert.
Back to Old Harry, on the day of the Fete. Engines loaded by his front gate.

Everything ready, but the day looks damp; 'Let's give it a start, go get the lamp'
A Hornsby is always a doubtful starter, pops and bangs, a bit of a tarter.
It blows out smoke, soot, tar, and oil; even worse it starts to boil
Black droplets cover lamp, belt and handle, just keep it away from old Tom Randall.

Harry drove off down the road. But all is not too good
His brakes today won't hold the load, not that they ever would!
'The pedal goes right to the floor ' he said to his old mate Jocko
'These brakes have always been quite poor - like Eric Brain's Scirocco'.

The lorry swung across the road, oblivious to its antique load
It caught a kerbstone by its edge and ended up right in the hedge
Harry cursed and swore abuse words only known to Ian Skuse!

The lorry was almost in a brook so what about the Fete?
Harry had the raffle book, now he would be too late.
'Oh no' he cried 'this is the end, now it's begun to rain
and I still have the raffle book, poor old Herbie Gane'.

Who would help Old Harry now and pull his front wheels over?
Wait a minute, who comes now? A man in an old Land Rover.
What's that on the trailer? It's no Gas or Oiler....
It's only a Steam Engine with an old fashioned boiler.
Its amazing the things that exhibitors bring
And heres no exception it's Marg with Rod Dring.

The job was soon done, the lorry pulled out.
'It's the beer-tent tonight and mine's the first shout'.
Harry mounted to his cab and gave his brakes an anxious dab.
The sound of bells could now be heard and Harry started singing
'They're out of tune again' he signed 'It's old Mike Cannon ringing'.

There's plenty happening at the Fate as Harry drove in through the gate
To the bushes he ran, for he was busting; with his face the colour of John Emery's Rustin'
Ah, this must be the fancy dress, who are they all? It's easy to guess
There's Tweedledum and Tweedledee, must be Bill and Ken Appleby.

The Fete and my story had better soon end, or you'll all think your President's at last round the bend.

But as you all know, with a good Engine Club; it's better than sitting all night at the Pub
So don't think you'll now get your S.E. in rhyme, it must stay as it is I havn't the time...!!

David W. Edgington

THE NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

This monthly meeting, held as always at the Old Down Inn, Emborough, was addressed by Bod Scudamore of the Kennet and Avon Canal Society. Bob brought along one of the Society's slide presentations using pre-recorded sound and very professional it was too. It took us on a pictorial trip along the entire length of the canal showing us excellent slides of the main features, the work which had been completed and also that which remains to be done.

After the interval with Herbie Gane emptying our pockets for the raffle tickets, Robin Lambert and Tony Jones showed some of their slides of engines, fair-organs, traction engines, etc. taken at recent and not so recent rallies all around the South West.

Later, Herb drew the raffle and the first prize, Christmas Crackers, was won by Mike Bailey, second prize, a large can of beer, was won by Andy Gale, and third prize, fireworks(!), was won by Roy Cox.

A very enjoyable evening with an excellent 'club' atmosphere.

Emerson Brantingham

SALES AND WANTS

- Wanted: Any Bernard Conord engines or spare parts in any condition. Brian Munt.
Tel. Whitchurch 836214.
- Wanted: For 3 hp Petter M Type, side plates, magneto, cylinder head and carburettor in any condition, even broken parts will be welcome. Clive Sealey, 145 Westfield Grove, Yeovil 75001.
- Wanted: Young lady age 25 to 38 years approx., as rally companion and general assistant during forthcoming rally season and/or with a new to a possible more permanent arrangement. Ability to differentiate between petrol and kerosene and to make endless cups of tea, a necessity. Genuine. Tel Trowbridge 5351.
- Wanted: Set of four cast-iron spoked trolley wheels, no more than 10" dia.
Tel. Eric Brain, Temple Cloud 52633.
- For Sale: Ruston Hornsby PR magneto bracket etc. for Wico EK type. £5;
Lister 3-way tap £1; Lister D-type starting handle £2; Gauge glass protector for steam boilers £4. Mark Tilley, Corsham 712854.
- Wanted: Instruction book for Petter AVI diesel to borrow. Ivor Yeo, Tel. West Harptree 604.

SERVICES

Any member requiring WELDING of steel, stainless steel and, above all, cast iron, try our new contact Mr. D.J. Lyons, 'Hillview', Cheddarcombe Lane, Star, Winscombe, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Winscombe 2102 (Off the A38 opposite the 'Star').

CLUB EVENTS 1983

- January 31st 'The Crofton Society', an illustrated talk on the pumping station on the Kennet & Avon Canal and its beam engines,
- February 28th The Annual General Meeting. This is your chance to come along and voice your opinions on the running and activities of your Club, and perhaps get onto the committee and help run the Club in the manner you would like it run. Don't just say 'I'm not a committee sort of person'. Rather than sit back and let things happen, come along once a month and help them happen. This is the time your 1983 subscriptions can be paid, Stuart will be on hand to help empty your wallets and hand you your 1983 insurance certificate and diary.
- March 28th 'CINDY' the film they have all been taking about... and the one our 'doom-watch' correspondent, Harry Champion, wants to ban! This is a film of the serious job of restoring a steam traction engine...with a difference!! Even the audience gets steamed up, we hear.
- April 25th 'Diesel Engines', a talk by Mr. Dry of Bristol (to be confirmed).
- May 23rd 'Going Dutch', Pete Steele and Graham Escott tell of the pitfalls and pleasures of rallying in Holland.
- June 27th Yet another of the very popular 'Crank and Buy' meeting at the Old Down car park, weather permitting.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- April 2,3,4 Easter Weekend, West Somerset Railway Vintage Rally at Crowcombe Station. Free Rail travel, camping space, Evening entertainment, Bar, Jazz Train. Entries as soon as possible to Andy Woolford, Williton 3083, or get further details from Ian Skuse.

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- April 2 & 3 Abbey Hill Steam Rally. Yeovil. All stationary engine entries to Terry Heath, 'Tershi' Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset.
- May 1 & 2 Hawkchurch Vintage Rally. Entries to Wally Hull, 'Kymore', North Street, Axminster, Devon.
- May 7 & 8 Castle Coombe Steam Rally, held at the Motor Racing Circuit near Chippenham, Wilts.
- May 29 & 30 Market Lavington Spring Fayre. All entries, enquiries etc. to John Kyte, 10 High Street, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wilts.
- July 2 & 3 Heddington & Stockley Steam Rally, Nr. Calne, Wilts.
- July 9 & 10 WESSEX Garden Party & Barbeque at Tony Jones' Garden, 59 Marsh Road, Trowbridge. All proceeds to CLIC; this was a very enjoyable event last year, this year promises to be even better. Tony would be very grateful for Club lady volunteers to get together to assist him with this daunting task. Full details available very shortly. Offers of help as soon as you like to Tony, try telephoning him on Trowbridge 5351. (This plea for help is entirely independent of a certain advert appearing elsewhere in this Newsletter...!!).
- July 9 & 10 Cavalcade of Veteran Vehicles, The Polo Ground, Swindon, Wilts. Stationary engines invited. Details from Mr. B. Harvey, 154 Cheyney Manor Road, Swindon, Wilts. The show includes Fire Engines, Cars, Motor cycles, Military, Commercials, Buses. Write soonest, including a S.A.E. to avoid disappointment.
- August 13 & 14 Yeovil Festival of Transport
- September 3 & 4 Yesterday's Farming. Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet. This excellent 2-Day event is organised by the South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Club.
- September 9,10 & 11 Earlier this year at last, to try and beat the weather? Yes, it's STOURPAINE.. but put your oilskins and wellies in the boot of the car, just in case!
- September 11 Science Museum Open Day, Wroughton. As one of the 'pioneer' clubs at this superb event, we could, with a little more effort, make a much better display at this show. Last year, we were badly let down at the last minute by members promising to come and then not telling us that they couldn't. Intending entrants, please tell the Secretary NOW..!

THANKS to everyone who helped at the Jumble Sale, either by donating jumble or raffle prizes, or the overwhelming number of helpers on the day. As you will all have seen, it was all very worthwhile.

THANK YOU.

MATTERS OF THE MOMENT

With the Annual General Meeting just one month away, members thoughts should now be turning to matters of administration, the Club itself, and what it means to them. Briefly, for the benefit of both new members and those with short memories, the W.S.E.C. was founded late in 1976, has currently about 200 members, (including 'family' members) and is run by a Committee of 13 persons. It has set out a constitution, available to any member on request, as a guide to its aims and regulations. The Club meets regularly at the Old Down Inn, Emborough, Somerset on the last Monday of every month, except where this is impractical due to statutory Bank Holidays, whereupon an alternative date is published in the monthly Newsletter.

Officers of the Club are currently as follows:- President (due to retire at this A.G.M.) David W. Edgington; Chairman, Ian Skuse; Vice-Chairman, Robin Lambert; Secretary, Diane Emery; Treasurer, Stuart Ashman; Newsletter Editor, Eric Brain; Raffles Officer, Herbert Gane; supported by Ivor Yeo, Tony Jones, Michael Cannon, Adrian Stride, Jackie Lambert, Mark Tilley, Gerald Atherton.

Club subscriptions are due annually on the 1st January and are £5 Joint member (member and spouse, fiancée, concubine or ??), £4 single, and £1 for Junior (under 18 years). These rates include Public Liability Insurance for all rallies in the UK, except junior members to whom limitations apply. The Club is affiliated to a charitable organisation C.L.I.C. to whom it donates cash from collections made voluntarily at rallies and other functions during the year.

The Officers of the Committee stand down annually at the A.G.M. and those who do not seek re-election, are replaced by nominations from the floor.

WANTED URGENTLY. Articles, etc. for this, YOUR Newsletter. I have NOTHING AT ALL for the next A.G.M. issue. Shame on 199 of you!! The letterbox is ever-open at 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Somerset and the Ollivetti has a new ribbon....!!!!