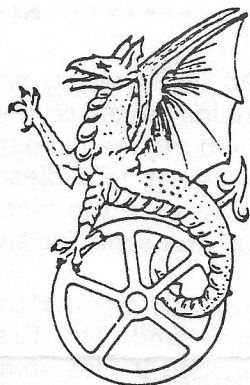


# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1985

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**A Very Happy New Year to all Members, readers and friends in Engineland.....**

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Our Newsletter Postal Services Officer poses a few questions:

'As you all know, I hand out the Newsletter to members who attend the monthly meetings and post those who do not. Postage incidentally costs the Club over £100p.a., but that's not the point of this letter. It worries me somewhat to find that I am posting the same members, month after month, or putting it another way, some members hardly ever attend meetings. Now, obviously some members find it impossible to attend due to the distances involved as our membership is very widespread - from Scotland to South Devon, from the Southeast to West Wales. However, there are some members who practically live on the doorstep of the Old Down Inn but whom we never see.

Now this disappoints me. Is it because our meetings are not interesting? I would hardly think so, as the programme is varied, often amusing, the room is comfortable and the company always congenial. I know the necessity of earning a living often interferes with the joys of Stationary Engines and makes attendance difficult but there must be some other reason why many members do not give us the benefits of their company. I hope it is not because some folk only join the Club for the benefits of the Insurance Scheme; if so this could be very discouraging to the committee.

OK then, have you any ideas? Are we as a committee failing in our desire to look after the interests of **ALL** the members? I personally have heard no actual complaints but perhaps that's because my metaphorical ear as well as my physical ear is not close enough to the ground.

If this letter appears contentious, I'm afraid that's because it's meant to be, perhaps it will provoke some response and solve one of the mysteries of life. Perhaps even tell us if and where we are going wrong....!'

Claude Lowther

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**REMINDER** - Subscriptions were due on January 1st and remain as previous years at £5 for a joint membership (husband & wife, fiancée & fiancé, father & son or daughter, etc.), £4 for single membership, and £1 for a junior. More details from Jackie Lambert, Hon. Treasurer, 15 Beechwood Ave., From, Som. Tel. Frome 63526. All members who joined the Club since October 1st last are fully covered for 1985 and will get their new insurance certificate in due course. Please make cheques etc. payable to the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. By way of a further reminder **THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER** before you rejoin.....!

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**CLIC (Cancer & Leukaemia in Childhood Trust)**

Derek Maybee has passed on a copy of a letter of thanks from CLIC thanking him and you, the Wessex Members, for the donation of £210 from the 1984 Treasure Chest which is prominent at many rallies throughout each year. Details of this and other CLIC fund raising activities under the Wessex banner were given in the November Newsletter.

I quote from the last paragraph.....'Please thank everyone who so kindly gave towards this gift, and assure them that the money will be used wisely for the benefit of the young patients and their families...'

Derek and Eileen Maybee ask also for their personal thanks to be extended to all those who helped in any way.

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Dinner and Dance

Robert and Jean Donnelly from Kingsteignton, Devon send New Year greetings to all Club members and grateful thanks for a lovely time at the Dinner & Dance. Thanks also to Michael and Jane Cannon for their hospitality and a pleasant weekend spent with them.

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 THE BUG, SCRAP-IRON, AND TONGUE PIE

I suppose I have always had a bit of the Bug having always been interested in tinkering and messing about with different things. Anyway, I had an old Petter AVAI diesel engine given to me; parts of it were missing but nevertheless I built it up, put new rings in it and it served me many years on a sawbench which I had built myself. The next engine which I acquired was a Petter PCI diesel which was complete but the big-ends and main bearings were worn out. I enquired all over the place but got no luck. Henry Esain suggested that I join the Wessex Stationary Engine Club and send for the Stationary Engine Magazine.

I think that the first night out at the Old Down Inn was when the Bug first bit firmly; the Rev. Alan Newman gave us a talk on Railway Engines which was very interesting indeed. The first engine which I actually bought was a Lister Junior in partly dismantled condition; soon it was going and I gave it six coats of paint, two of red oxide, two of undercoat and two of top coat, rubbing down with fine wet and dry paper after each coat. I made my own trolley to put it on and was well satisfied with the result.

The Bug had really got into me by then and I was looking forward to each 'last Monday in the month' for our Club meetings and also the S.E. Magazine. The second engine I acquired was a little Wolseley WDII 2½ hp which was seized up solid and rusted up terribly when I brought it home. My wife, Violet, asked if I was thinking of setting up in the scrap-iron business! This acquisition was soon freed up, started up, and painted up, using six coats as before. It was mounted on a trolley with a Lister H2 pump borrowed from Henry Esain, although he wouldn't sell it to me. In the middle of all this I bought a Lister L type, a Lister A Type, single flywheel of 1924, and a Phoenix water pump.

Now every man gets 'tongue pie' now and again; I don't believe it when a couple say they have been married for twenty years or so and never had a cross word, life must have been very dull indeed for such people. I get tongue pie now and again and it serves to remind me that I have a wife and son to think of as well as engines. Thus I try to split my time equally between domestic life and the engines, although since my son, Eric, has got the bug as well, Violet has become more interested and comes to rallies, even out into the workshop helping to sand down an engine trolley. Nevertheless, I still get tongue pie but I wouldn't have things any other way.

I have bought a couple of engines that, on getting them home, have been found to be no good at all, so I have put them by for spare parts. The 1924 Lister A was seized up and in a very bad state when I bought it. I disconnected the con-rod at the big end and took off the water hopper complete with the piston and rod. Making an adaptor to fit the sparking plug hole, I blanked off the valve holes and pumped it all full of grease and diesel oil. On pumping the grease up solid, the oil started to exude from past the piston so I decided to speed things up a bit by threading a piece of chain down around the gudgeon pin and over a small hydraulic jack. Bolting the ends of the chain together, I then tried to jack out the piston but only succeeded in breaking the chain! I pumped more grease in and left it all to soak. I had to strip the crank assembly down in order to remove the seized main bearing; this necessitated removal of the pulley, flywheel, and governor gear assemblies. The pulley was about ½" away from the flywheel and was held with a gib-head key but, as usual, with the head missing. I puzzled how to get this out as it was very rusty. Eventually I put the whole crankcase on top of two plastic milk crates and for a few months, every time I went into the workshop, I sprayed the bearing and key with a variety of sorts of penetrating oil. The engine was leaning to one side so I packed it up with some blocks of wood to keep its balance. In the end, I had to drill the key out and in lifting the whole lot off the crate one day the whole lot turned so by turning it constantly back and forth, it soon came off the bearing. Now back to the seized piston; this was removed by reconnecting the con-rod and fixing the engine assembly to a piece of 4ft. x 3ft. x 4" elm. Then with a hydraulic jack and various chunks of 4"x4" timber I managed to jack the hopper from the piston. This was a little trick told me by Bill Appleby. When it freed, it went off with a frightening BANG, louder than a 12 bore shotgun but luckily, the piston and bore were all in very good condition, but I had to free the rings from the piston. The exhaust valve elbow was broken when I bought the engine so if anyone has a spare I would gladly buy it. My next move is to clean the engine down and paint it but really I would like to run it first which I can't do without the exhaust elbow.

The Bug has really bitten into me now and I don't think there is any known cure.....!!

Bill Coombs

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 DINNER & DANCE - 8th December 1984

The sign of the Mason at Frome was once again the venue for the WSEC annual Dinner & Dance. Greetings were exchanged over a welcoming glass of sherry and before long the hubub of voices changed to the chink of knives and forks, as eighty pairs of hands settle down to a superb four course traditional Christmas dinner. After the waitresses cleared the tables quickly and efficiently, the



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Toastmaster, Ray from behind the bar, proposed the Loyal Toast and also to the ladies in the Club and then corrected himself by saying the ladies of the Club! President, Tom Randall, then delivered his words of wisdom recounting some of his rallies during the year and also how his marriage took on an extremely firm foundation in the summer, when Ester accidentally became half buried in cold wet concrete! The Skuse 'sermon' followed, which was delivered in Ian's own inimitable hilarious fashion.

Herbie Gane, light of foot and deft of hand, busied himself selling raffle tickets, aided and abetted by Brian Munt. It was amusing to watch the different selling techniques employed by these two! The raffle prizes themselves were not revealed until the winner unwrapped them much to the delight of the onlookers, especially when Stuart Ashman won a pair of corsets which of course he had to try for size.

New to this years events was an improvised cabaret - I think the person most surprised was the artist, none other, of course, than that charismatic character from Chew Magna - Stuart Ashman, who juggled with his balls, well the ones that Diana Emery had brought with her anyway! Another surprise was what latin scholars would call 'actis semi-eroticus' performed by Rose Stride, one of the waitresses. Whether it was the sight of Stuart's corsets or the high spirits of the evening that made her lose her inhibitions I don't know but when spoken to afterwards replied that she hoped we would return next year as she wants to make sure of being there. Musical entertainment was provided by Farmer John Disco run by that man of many hats, John Forward, who after discarding his nightshirt, sorry, Somerset smock, delighted everyone with something called a kissing dance - each man dancing with a lady on each arm.

There was a total of 25 raffle prizes, some very desirable, some not so desirable and some beyond all description! However, prize winners are listed thus:- Don Rogers, stuffing complete with turkey; Claz Munt, bottle of wine; Brian Verrall, rolling pin; Brian Munt, sugared almonds; Dave Clack, bottle of sherry; Bill Connelly, funnel; Tom Randall, biscuits; Mrs. Phillips, box of chocolates; Respectable Rose - the stripping waitress, foot stool; Jean Donnelly, bottle of wine; Ann Harris, tow-rope; Joanna Penny, cartoon books; Wendy Gane, feather duster; Jan Ashman, bottle of wine; Reg Butler, Tonka toy; Roger Pike, bottle of whiskey (he won one last year as well!); Tricky Penny, photo album; Michael Tucker, box of chocolates; Ray the Barman, bottle of wine; Linda Pike, christmas cake; Paul Nesbitt, aftershave; Robert Donnelly, christmas pudding, Barman Ray again, Revd. Awdry book; Don Rogers, yes again, wooden spoon (to help his stuff the turkey presumably), and finally Stuart Ashman, a pair of tight-fitting, hip-hugging, suspender carrying corsets.

After seven years of WSEC dinner/dances it seems we have finally got it as near perfect as it will ever be, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves - I only feel sorry for those who did not come, they missed a first class evening - good food, good value, good fun, good company and the music wasn't too loud either!

#### The Cannon of Bath

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BEST WISHES for a speedy recovery to Roy Cox, who was in hospital just prior to Christmas for a further operation on his other hand - the one he holds a 'Full Quart' with. Get well soon Roy.

CLUB RALLY LOGO. The Club has commissioned a rally shield bearing the logo of the Wessex Wyvern and Flywheel for use at rallies where a group of members are exhibiting together. This will be along similar lines to that displayed privately by the Emery Family which no doubt you have all seen at some time or another.

STOURPAINE is the weekend **AFTER** the summer bank holiday 1985, 29/30/31 August and 1st September, **NOT** as stated in the last Newsletter.

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MONDAY, 26th November, Vintage 'Call My Bluff' - The Monthly Meeting

Assistant Chairman, Robin Lambert, opened the November meeting at the 'Old Down Inn' and in front of an almost capacity audience introduced that man of many hats - John Forward. The evening took a similar form to its television counterpart with a panel of three giving different descriptions of articles from John Forward's collection. Of course only one of the descriptions was correct and the other panel who was the audience had to guess which was the correct one. The Club members proved that they do not always go to sleep on the rally field, the knowledge of ancient artifacts gained during the summer months came to the fore and after a shaky start they ended up by beating the John Forward trio by nine points to five. The articles shown were truly fascinating pieces of equipment that came from many different walks of life including veterinary surgery, cooperage, tin mining, carpentry, lumbering, farming, a smithy, cheese making and even something a parlour-maid would have used. It soon became obvious, however, that it was considerably less than easy to differentiate between a cheese-makers tool, a stone masons tool and a thatchers tool!!

After the panel game John Forward showed us about a dozen more articles from his collection and we then had to guess what they were used for which caused many an imagination to work overtime. Evelyn Cox was seen to become quite excited when she thought she had discovered a Victorian

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vibrator but was disappointed when she could not find anywhere to put the batteries!

The evening ended with the usual 'Gane Game', ie, the raffle with Bill Foster going home to use his car washing kit, Jackie Lambert went off saying 'Any time, any place, any where' after she had won a bottle of Martini and Gracen, from the Panel, won a box of sweets. A refreshingly different evening; it is sometimes difficult to judge how a new idea for a meeting will go, but the November meeting proved that this was a first class idea enjoyed by all. Thank you John and your panel for all the time and trouble you took to give us such an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Michael Cannon

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- February 25th Annual General Meeting, a chance for you all to come along and air your views, vote on the 1985 committee and perhaps even come on the committee yourself and help play an active part in the running of **YOUR CLUB**.
- March 16th This is the **REVISED** date of the Club Jumble Sale. Please note, a **NEW** date due to there being a wedding at St. Petters Church Hall, Westfield on the other date given,
- March 25th Illustrated talk by Paul Weaver on 'The Bath Stone Quarries'.
- April 29th Yet to be finalised.
- May 20th The Annual Crank-Up at the Old Down Inn. This is **NOT** the last Monday in the month.
- June 15/16th The Wessex Rally, this year at Longleat. Hurry and get your entry forms in to Diana as we are restricted to 150 engines only and priority will be given to those willing to attend both days. No camping, cars, trailers, etc. will be allowed behind engines. Entry forms went out last month.

Dinner and Dance has been provisionally booked for December 14th 1985, full details in due course but meanwhile put the date in your diary.

Bleadon Rally, which proved so successful last year will be held again on July 28/29th, same place, details subject to confirmation. See Roy Cox.

Chippenham & District Preservation Soc. are holding a Bring & Buy Sale, Sat., 23rd March at Langley Burrell Village Hall, Nr. Chippenham. Sale by auction, 10% commission, no buyers premium.

Intending rally entrants, please help your club help you by thinking twice before entering a rally where you are **CHARGED** an entrance fee. This is a practice which is beginning to spread over the last few years and the WSEC does not condone it in any way. Soon it could be like the Golden Flywheel Rally reported in SE Magazine last April where a 250 dollar entry fee is reported to have been charged. Fees for camping are also just **NOT ON**. Remember, you are face to face with the thin edge of the wedge....! Other clubs, we know, are actually boycotting these events.

**REMINDER** - Wessex Jumble Sale, **New Date**, 16th March at Westfield, nr. Radstock. Collect any bric-a-brac, jumble, etc., and pass it to any committee member or bring it along on the day. Special Note: this is Secretary Diana's **BIRTHDAY**.

FOR SALE

Petter Atomic diesel 1928, twin flywheel, 8 hp. Ideal restoration project and has been rallied. Mounted on timbers with water-cooling tank and some spare parts. £225. Bill Dufty, 187 Cavalier Way, Yeovil, Somerset. Tel. Yeovil 5593

Bamford 3½ hp, 1926. Low tension ignition. Fully restored, Class 1, mounted on a mahogany trolley. £350. Mark Tilley, Corsham 712854.

WANTED

Lister HI water pump. Bill Coombs, Tel. Oakhill 840868.

Starting handle for Stuart Turner P4 1 hp to purchase or to borrow as a pattern to copy. Alan Sweet, 1 Arch Villas, Bread Street, Pilton 586.

SERVICES

Lettering for engines, rally information boards. Supply a full description of your engine and its personal working history, plus manufacturing details. Also your photos, crests and trademarks, etc. to be copied. Specify size for finished work, colours, etc. Enclose payment of £7.50 (cheques to Robert Cooper) and expect delivery in 3-4 weeks. Robert Cooper, 82 Elmhurst Estate, Batheaston, Bath. Tel. 858536.