



WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

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NEWSLETTER



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A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS.

******* EDITORIAL *******

How time flies. This is the first newsletter of yet another New Year. It seems as though as soon as I finish a newsletter ready for the printer it is time to start the next one. I can only maintain a monthly newsletter if I get enough content to fill it, so keep the reports, adverts, and any snippets of news of members, or recent acquisitions or restorations coming in, it all makes interesting reading for someone. Don't forget there is an annual cup for the best contribution to the newsletter during 2003. Go on try and win it.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last event of 2002, the Mince Pie crank-up at Nunney Catch Transport Café' was a resounding success, with a good entry of exhibits and a steady stream of visitors looking around. Once again a big thank you to Gordon and Jackie for looking after us so well, the mince pies, sausage rolls and hot drinks were very welcome on a cold day. A big thank you goes to Brian and Mary Verrall who volunteered to do the raffle, Once again we had a magnificent raffle thanks to the generosity of the members who contributed a lot of the prizes, again this resulted in a boost for club funds. You will see from the programme for 2003 that there are a lot of meetings, events and visits planned, please support them and justify the hard work the committee has put into arranging them for your benefit. Next month is the AGM, this is the time to turn up and let us know if the club is not run to your satisfaction. You will see from this newsletter that all the members who attended the first meeting of this club 25 years ago are now life members, I hope this meets with your approval.

BJB.

NEW MEMBERS

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club would like to welcome the following new members. Mr and Mrs Nigel Martin of Bourton, Dorset. Mr Graeme (Spud) Taylor from Marston Bigot, Frome. And Mr P (Sam) Jackson from Old Ford, Frome. We hope your membership with our club will be a happy and long one.

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THE MARKET PLACE

FOR SALE. Ford Sierra. 1.8 Turbo Diesel Estate. 1991 J Reg. MOT January 2004. 6 months tax. Tow Bar. 4 New Tyres. Excellent condition. Any trial. £750. For further details ring Roger or Linda on 01761 233028. Chilcompton area.

FINLAKE VINTAGE SHOW. 11th-13th OCTOBER.

On arrival on Friday morning, I found many exhibitors in place. It was a relaxing day, just meeting and making friends. Saturdays dawn brought forth a warm sunny day that was a delight to be out and about. I was kept busy talking and explaining about the old Fordson, that seemed to draw more than it's share of interest. After lunch I stopped the tractor and went walk about to see the splendid selection of trade and autojumble stands. This site is now very developed with large static holiday caravans, so the show was different this year due to the limited space, very spread out, with a lot of walking. There was a good selection in all sections as this year the organisers had been more selective. I enjoyed Saturday evening in the company of good friends in the main complex bar, from where we could hear the musical entertainment. During the night the weather worsened with wind and heavy rain. At dawn it was the same, and by 12 noon we were packing up ready to leave. So the last show of the season had a premature ending and saw me and my green companion leaving earlier than usual.

BRIAN LOVELL.

BRIDGWATER PLOUGHING MATCH SATURDAY 21st SEPT.

An early start saw me arrive at the chosen venue between Durleigh and Spaxton. On turning into this very large field, I was greeted warmly and directed to an area that had been set aside for the Sedgemore club's display of farming bygones. Already set up were trade stands, refreshment tents, and a competition to guess where the cow-pat lands. This is an easy way to raise funds. The competition covered 10 pairs of horses together with a good representation of tractors in the vintage classes. There were big entrees in the mounted, and an impressive collection in the reversible group. Later in the day the large reversible boys carried out their speed ploughing. During the day some of the vintage exhibitors demonstrated ploughing and cultivating at a much slower pace. This had been a very pleasurable event in glorious sunshine and in good company.

BRIAN LOVELL.

THE THATCHERS YARD. COMPTON DUNDON. SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER.

This is an event put on to raise funds for local deserving causes, by the Wright family, who have been and still are thatchers by trade. Harold was busy laying out his vast collection of photographs that depict the many designs that they have applied their trade to around the west country. On display was a Scammell and living wagon, George Train's Ruston Procter traction Engine, two models in steam, displays of sewing machines, radios, dolls in prams and a lot of scales. Also present were cars, Stationary engines, a lorry and a Fordson tractor. Later in the afternoon the usual raffle took place under the guidance of Brian Hook from Long Sutton, that took three quarters of an hour to distribute the prizes. A very big thank you to the Wright Family for such a pleasant day.

BRIAN LOVELL.

ITEMS ON SALE FROM THE CLUB SHOP

WSEC MEMBERS BRASS PLAQUES.	£1-50 each.
WSEC EXHIBITORS SHEETS.	£0-10p each.
WSEC LAPEL BADGES.	£2-25 each.
WSEC KEY RINGS.	£0-60 each.
WSEC BALL POINT PENS.	£0-30p each.
WSEC CLOTH BADGES.	£1-00 each.
WSEC CAR WINDOW STICKERS.	£0-60 each.
WSEC BASEBALL TYPE CAPS.	£3-50 each.

Any of these goods can be bought at any WSEC meeting or event, or can be obtained by giving Diane a ring on 01373 464982.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS.

For a long time some of the founder members of this club have been made life members by previous committee's. As the present Chairman I thought that this was rather unfair to the other members who attended the inaugural meeting of the WSEC and had not been given the same accolade. At a recent committee meeting it was decided the following founder members of the club should receive honorary life memberships. They are. **HERB AND WENDY GANE. ROGER PARSONS. and TONY ANDREWS.** Also receiving life membership for their long serving dedication to running the club is **ROBIN and JACKIE LAMBERT**, Jackie is now starting her eighteenth year as treasurer. The members would like to thank all the founder members who had the foresight to start this great club over twenty five years ago.

WESSEX MINCE PIE CRANK UP – NUNNEY CATCH FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER 2002

Despite a very early cover of dark clouds with rain, I really hesitated about turning out for this event. But my curiosity got the better of me so I decided to accompany my green companion to this the last event of 2002. There were 26 stationary engines, a Morris van, with an assortment of bill hooks for sale. A Triumph sports car, a very well presented Jeep, one motor cycle, a display of oilcans of all shapes and sizes, a gents bicycle of Dutch origin and a Fordson Tractor, who had given me strict instructions not to unload him. So he was displayed with the doors open showing the lorry interior and his winter comfort. While all this was going on, teas or coffee was available in the café with sausage rolls and mince pies. To complete the day Brian Baker conducted a magnificent draw with over 50 prizes. An event that had been dry and most pleasing. Well done to all concerned.

BRIAN LOVELL.

OBITUARIES

THE DEATH HAS OCCURRED AT HOME AFTER A LONG ILLNESS OF ALMA THORNE. ALMA WAS THE WIFE OF ED THORNE AND THE MOTHER OF JOHN, ALL LONG SERVING MEMBERS OF THE WSEC. OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES GO TO ED AND JOHN AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY AT THIS SAD TIME IN THEIR LIVES.

**IT IS WITH REGRET THAT WE LEARN OF THE DEATH OF AN OLD FRIEND OF WESSEX, FARMER JOHN FORWARD. JOHN WILL BE REMEMBERED BY US FOR HIS ENTERTAINING EVENINGS AT THE OLD DOWN INN WHEN HE AND HIS FRIENDS PUT ON A "CALL MY BLUFF" AND "GUESS THE OBJECT" THEMES. MANY OF US WILL RECALL THE CLUB VISIT TO CORSLEY TO LOOK AT HIS LONGHEDGE COLLECTION OF ENGINES AND BYGONES, AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE FARMER JOHN DISCO'S AT THE FROME MASONIC HALL WHEN HE ENTERTAINED US WITH HIS JOKES, STORIES, AND MUSIC AT THE CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCES. JOHN WAS A CHARACTER IN HIS OWN RIGHT AND WILL BE SADLY MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM
ROBIN.**

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2003 ARE NOW OVERDUE. PLEASE REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT INSURED IF YOU ENTER AN EVENT IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP. ALSO YOUR NEWSLETTER WILL NO LONGER ARRIVE.

ANTIFREEZE-CRANK-UP at NUNNEY CATCH TRANSPORT CAFÉ' FRIDAY 27 th DECEMBER.

After finally managing to coax my Enfield into life, with help from Rob Armstrong and Eric Gay, this was to be its first rally, the last of the year. There were 31 engines on show, plus a collection of oil cans and containers, a Morris Minor van, Fordson Standard Agricultural, Willys Jeep and a Triumph TR4. The engines ranged in size from Ryan Symes 6 hp Lister, mentioned in the Summerleaze report, which has now had its 'shower' repaired, to the 5" scale model of the New Holland 1 ½ hp. This engine was built by New Holland and is no 3, believed to be one of only three manufactured. By far the quietest engine on show was Alan Vickery's 1944 Ruston Hornsby PT, supplied to the Ministry in green. Behind the ropes it was hard to believe it was running. Best exhibit for audience participation was Fred Bigg's Harrison, Mc Gregor and Co Ltd. Feed cutter, driven by a 1 ½ -2hp Ruston Hornsby PB. As passers by stopped to admire the machine they were quickly offered a sample chunk of the sugar beet which it was cutting. Two Crossley 2 ½ hp PH1030's were on show, one, owned by Steve and Katie Davies, and driving a Lister Domestic pump was sold to Braham, Patterson and Benham Ltd, London, in 1930 for £23-0-0p. An unusual use for an engine was explained in the exhibit board of the 1932 Villiers MarVil owned by F. Elswood, exhibited today driving a rare 6v Villiers dynamo. Some of these engines were installed underneath washing machines. The Morris Minor van, owned by G.K.A. Day, collector of Bill and Spar Hooks and small "Edged Tools". The Enfield, meanwhile, ran for 3 hours, then suddenly stopped, having now lost a spark. The draw was held at 2pm, with over 50 prizes on offer. For the last WSEC event of 2002, there was a large and varied attendance, and a lucky break in the rain which had been forecast, having only a 20 minute shower in the morning. Thanks should go to Gordon and Jackie Callow for providing the hot drinks, mince pies, and sausage rolls which fortified the exhibitors throughout the morning. (As it is Christmas, the season of goodwill, I am prepared to overlook the fact that very few engines had exhibit boards! In the new year however....!)

JONATHON HOCKEDY
WSEC JUNIOR REPORTER

(I would like to thank Rob Armstrong and Eric Gay for responding to my repeated pleas for help in this newsletter. Respectively, they have spent a lot of time and effort in replacing and testing the electrics, and resetting timing and carburetor controls, until the engine burst into life. I am indebted to two very clever men, and two good friends.)

As editor I am really pleased that a request printed in the WSEC's newsletter has been answered, also Bill Appleby's transit van that was advertised for sale, sold the day the newsletter was handed out, keep the adverts and the requests coming in and we will see what we can do. B.J.B.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY. Club night at the Old Down Inn. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Lets have a good turn out for the most important meeting of the year. This is your chance to have a say as to how the clubs affairs are conducted.

SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY. Selwood's ANNUAL CLEAROUT. At Zeals Airfield, Somerset. On B3092. Take Mere exit off 303. 8am onwards. For further details ring Pearl Francis on 01373 466846.

SATURDAY MARCH 1st. WESSEX SOMERSET SORTOUT at Winchester Farm Cheddar. 8am onwards. Pitches £5. Buyers only £1. Turn up and convert your unwanted items into hard cash.

SUNDAY MARCH 16th. Club visit to Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton. Listed as the worlds finest Aviation museum. Meet in the car park at 11am and go in as a group as this will qualify for a £2 discount on admission prices. For further details ring 01749 342671.