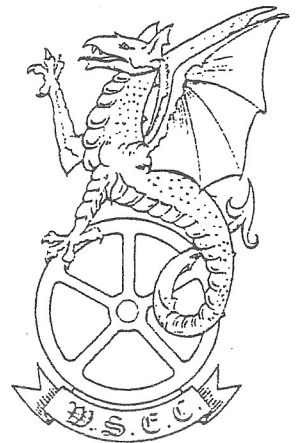


JANUARY 2006

**WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE
CLUB LIMITED**



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NEWSLETTER

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<<<<<<<<<<<< EDITORIAL >>>>>>>>>>>>

I would like to wish all our members and readers a very happy new year. With the worst of the winter months now behind us we can look forward to the spring and the start of another season of events, meetings, and visits etc. The first of which is our spring Sortout at Cranmore, followed by Nunney Catch and Mells. The Committee has compiled a comprehensive programme for 2006 which I hope will be well supported by the members. It is very important at these events to follow common sense with regard to safety matters and comply with the Wessex Code of Practice at all times. I look forward to seeing members and old friends at these events throughout the year. If any member has any query relating to club matters I am always prepared to listen and resolve it if possible. Safe rallying for 2006.

<<<<<<<<<<<<< CHAIRMANS REPORT >>>>>>>>>>>>>

The last event on our calendar for 2005 was the Mince-Pie Crank-Up at Nunney Catch on the 27 December. Despite the bitterly cold morning it was very well supported with members coming from far and wide. When we get members such as Alan Vickery and Ray Bassett from Hampshire and Bill Loosemore from Exeter it shows what enthusiasm exists in the club. Jackie and Gordon were busy in the café dispensing the mince pies and sausage rolls and hot drinks. I would like to thank them for the way they look after us at the events held there, it is members like them that helps to make the events such a pleasant experience. I would also like to thank the members who bring along such wonderful prizes for the raffles held throughout the year, I think we have the most generous members of any club in the country, please keep it up for 2006. The committee has a busy programme of events for the year ahead so we have plenty to look forward to, see you at some of them, BJB.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY. Club Night at the Old Down Inn. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** This is the most important meeting of the year. This is when you elect the officers to run the club on your behalf for the next twelve months. It is also your opportunity to voice your opinion on any club matters, so let's have a good turnout. The usual raffle will be held after the AGM.

SATURDAY MARCH 4th. Spring Sortout at Cranmore Railway Station. Pitches still only £5. Buyers £1. the café will be open for hot food and drinks. This is a good chance to turn your unwanted goods into hard cash. Gates open 8am onwards.

MONDAY MARCH 27th. Club Night at the Old Down Inn. Guest speaker – An evening with Professor Joe and the history of Punch and Judy. The usual raffle will be held, prizes would be appreciated.

SUNDAY APRIL 2nd Spring Crank-Up at Nunney Catch Transport Café. The Café will be open for Cooked breakfasts and lunches, drinks etc. The grand raffle will be held after lunch. Prizes will be very welcome.

MONDAY APRIL 17th Mells Daffodil Rally. For entry form or details ring Robin on 01373 463526

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THE BRISTOL & SOUTH GLOUCESTER STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB NEW YEAR
CRANK-UP AT FROG LANE FARM COALPIT HEATH
MONDAY 2nd JANUARY 2006

The farmyard setting for this annual Crank-up could not have been a more natural location as many of the exhibits on display would have spent their working lives in just such a place. Positioned neatly just underneath a vast barn entrance several stationary engines ran in unison, these included a 5hp Victoria, a few Listers, a United and an Amanco. I took along my Kyko Hot Air Fan, although not really a stationary engine it causes some interest on how it works, also there was an unusual Wolseley of about 5 hp, it had twin solid flywheels and a nice external governor that controlled its inlet valve. Its owner told me he had only purchased it at a sale a few days ago and it needed a lot of tidying up, and to bring it along to the crank-up he installed a temporary fuel tank, retimed the ignition and made a few more adjustments to bring it back to life. Just across the farmyard was a nice display of vehicles including three immaculately restored Land rovers and several vintage cars. After my arrival here, unloading and setting up, I was directed to the refreshment bar where club ladies Annette and Carol provided a piping hot cup of tea and a huge jaw stretching bacon bap, just the thing to get you going on a sunny frosty morning. The refreshment barn was also home to a huge and exciting restoration project in the form of a 47hp spring injection, open crank Blackstone engine which was once the emergency power supplier at a Bristol police Station. This project is about half way completed with a newly fabricated low loader trailer that is hydraulically raised and lowered, the engine block and outrigger bearing is now in-situ, painted and beautifully lined out. The 7ft flywheel which must weigh 3 or 4 tons is standing in a temporary RSJ frame, again all nicely painted and ready to be craned into its crank position. The engine cooling was originally by three 200 gallon water tanks, but for obvious reasons will not be used on the trailer, instead cooling will probably be by old style cast iron radiators. Yet to be restored is the giant 7ft air tank that is required for starting and the huge 35 KVA 3 phase alternator that is driven by 7 V belts. The alternator was made by Lancashire Crypto of Manchester. I think there is still a years worth of work to complete this project and when its done it will be a real eye catcher and a credit to its owner who has the skills and courage to take on such a restoration. My time spent here was thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks to the club for inviting me.

ROBIN

THANK YOU LETTER TO THE MEMBERS

Room 3, Pierce Ward
Royal United Hospital
Bath.

Dear Friends and Committee,

I would like to thank everyone of you for all your kind thoughts, cards and get well wishes, they were very much appreciated. I should be out of hospital sometime in March, and I hope to meet up with some of you at the Daffodil Rally in April. The best thing of all is that my left leg that was badly out of shape is now perfectly straight. They are taking good care of me here in the R.U.H. Dennis and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy new year. Once again thank you all.

Best Regards Diane Hudd.

<<<<<<<<<<< THE MARKET PLACE >>>>>>>>>>>

FOR SALE Lister L. 1923. 5hp. On a trolley. In good condition, ready to rally. £350. o.n.o. 1942 Allen Roto-Scythe. Spare engine. Good condition. £50 o.n.o. 1940 Atco Mower 2 stroke engine. Good working order £20. o.n.o. Ladies 12 speed Mountain Bike. Good condition. £20 o.n.o. Set of clip on caravan mirrors £10. For further details ring Roger on 01761 452565. Clutton area.

WANTED Three cylinder Armstrong Diesel engine. If you can help please ring Keith on 01749 830553.

Some time ago Fred Biggs donated some tools to the club, Tony Davis restored and sharpened these tools and has been selling them at the crank ups for club funds. At the last crank up at Nunney Tony raised the sum of £20. Well done Fred and Tony, the work you both do for the club is really appreciated.

Back in early December, Eileen and I decided to "Go Foreign" and visit the South Somerset Club Crank-Up at West Monkton. The attraction was threefold. Eileen wanted to go to Monkton Elm Garden Centre, in search of Christmas presents. I wanted to see the engines, and we both wanted lunch in the pub where the event is held. The morning dawned cold and wet, so it was only the thought that, "it must be better the other side of the Mendips", that persuaded us that it was worth going. As we approached Taunton, the rain eased and had just about stopped as we arrived at the site, which is the car park of the village pub. This is a nice little rally, only a dozen or so engines, plus a couple of Fordson tractors. What it lacks in size it makes up in friendliness and accessibility. It is easy to study the exhibits in detail and chat to the owners at length. There were the usual Lister D's, one of which was running a 1932 sludge pump – a very useful looking bit of kit. A Ruston and Hornsby 6 ½ PB was running very smoothly and unobtrusively, an engine I could watch all day. The engine that I coveted most however was the inverted vertical Benz of 1889. I have seen it before a couple of times. After a few problems when it was first obtained it now runs like the proverbial Swiss Watch. It ran all day, with only an occasional stop for refuelling. It was partnered by a model side shaft hot bulb engine less than a foot long. This delightful engine looked typical of German toys of the early 20th century. I look forward very much to seeing it run one day. Other engines present included a Fairbanks Morse Z type, a Petter Handyman (circa 1910) an Amanco Hired Man of 1914, a Petter type A, and a Ruston B3 driving a Lister pump. The last item was rather intriguing, a TW1 Combo model KOA5 diesel of 1993 manufacture. This engine came from China, and was certainly something that I had not seen before. The pub came up to expectations, and I would certainly recommend it to anyone passing that way, who is in need of "refuelling," even if there is no crank up in progress. Monkton Elm garden centre was also a success – I think it cost me less than 2 quid to get out this year! Last year was different. I saw a toy chain saw, which I thought was just right for our three year old grandson, he thought it was great too – until he was dissuaded from trying to shorten the table legs. The next day was Nunney Catch, which was rather different and which you know all about.

MICHAEL JENNINGS.

THE ALTERNATIVE REPORT ON THE MINCE-PIE CRANK-UP

Tuesday 27th December, looking out of the bedroom window, it must be very cold out there, Jack Frost had blanketed out all the windows. A sleepy voice reminded me of my duty – Mince Pie Crank-Up – well at least it was not raining! For the high altitude of Nunney Catch a selection of warm clothes and that extra layer were needed. A glance at the mirror, Must get a new one, I can't be that big! Not many hardy travellers on the road, we must be daft. When we arrived the car park seemed full so we parked in the lane. A reception committee in the form of a tractor and muck spreader passed by, leaving a lovely countryside aroma. Walking along the line of engines, green, red, blue and rust coloured, most of them were producing noise. One unit with a dynamo was also generating electricity to power a fan heater to try and keep the owners feet warm. Not the time to mention Global warming! Some of these engines need a strong man to get them to the engine lines, but what's this at the end of the line? Parked in front of a large red van, a dainty pale blue exhibit rotating silently. Is it in the right place? Opposite stood the Royal Blue parade, all standing to attention, awaiting inspection. Ah! I have spotted the café door and approach it, with what I hope was not undue haste. Inside in the warm and friendly atmosphere I get a mug of tea, and a warm sausage roll and mince pie. These were very welcome and delicious. Time for a chat with the other abandoned ladies about things non-mechanical. The usual excellent raffle ended a pleasant morning. The committee do organise some good social events, thank you to all concerned.

MARGARET SIMMONS

The subscriptions for 2006 are now due. If you have not renewed yet this could be the last newsletter you will receive. Subscriptions are £11 for a double and £9 for a single. Juniors under 18 years old £1. Cheques made payable to Wessex stationary engine Club Ltd and sent to Mrs J Lambert 15 Beechwood Avenue Frome Somerset BA11 2AX.

I would like to remind members that I need a continual supply of material coming in each month to fill the newsletter. It is the same hardcore of scribes that keep the newsletter going, so I would dearly like some new scribes to take up the pen. You must realise without a continual supply of articles there would be no newsletter.

***** KEEPING FIT AND HEALTHY *****

MARGARET SIMMONS

Is there anyone in the club who knows how to set up a web site. Eric Brain who has looked after the Wessex web site since he set it up has expressed a wish to hand it over to someone else. We have a member willing to take it on but does not know how to set up the web site on his computer. If anyone has the expertise to assist please give Martin or Andrea Feeney a ring on 01761 432282.