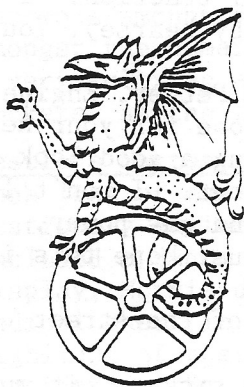


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

JULY 1991

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W.S.E.C. Annual Vintage Rally was held this year at Cheddar Football Club on the 15th & 16th June. Attendance averaged well over 100 engine; too many to mention individually, but a few that caught my eye were a couple of lovely Blackstones, the Baker collection was presented with a superb finish; an enormous trailer mounted pump, what a show that would have made pumping water (a comment - not a criticism) and a slow but enthusiastic firing Brounall & May. The tractors, commercials and cars made a good centre point on the field, with over thirty motor cycles in front. The collections of model cars, model steam exhibits, a variety of sheep shearing machines, farming bygones and three organs, plus Ford Bros. Steamer and living van, a couple of vintage caravans and Mr. Sweet's Walls Ice Cream Tricycle, many varied stalls and childrens amusements all joined together to make the rally complete.

Saturday passed quickly with the field soon filling - but public were few and far between. The evening came alive in the clubhouse with the group 'Going Grey' to entertain, plenty of dancing and chatting and when the heat became too much, a visit to the barbeque outside soon cooled one off!! Eric had been beavering all day with the raffle tickets and drew the following winners, Maureen Baker, Dan Cheeseman, Roy Pointing, Glad Duke, Denis Hodges, Maureen Baker again! Marilyn Wilkinson and thanks to Ford Brothers who returned a cuddly lion for charity auction, and which now resides with Brian Lovell. The raffle completed and back to dancing and socialising. Gerard Boelens is a doubtful partner - you can hitch a ride on his clogs - but if he stands on you.....!!

Sunday morning, I did not want to crawl from my bed, I'm certain someone removes a couple of hours from each night when I'm asleep. Sunday woke up with an hour of church bells, plus warmth and sunshine, public attendance was up, the potato people and chip van were busy, stall holders were seen to smile and the day flew by.

The trophy awards were judged and winners were:- Horizontal Engine Tony Taylors' Blackstone open crank 4 hp. Vertical Engine Kevin Taylors' Bamford SV3, 3 hp. Committee Cup working engine Brian Bakers Lister 'L' type driving an H3 water pump and the Junior Shield - Elizabeth Adams Jap 2A $\frac{3}{4}$ hp driving a Lister domestic water pump. Rosettes in other categories were awarded to:- Motorcycles, Neil Patterson 1959 BSA A10 650cc. Car:- John Donson Austin 16 saloon 1947. Tractor:- J. Smith BMC mini tractor. Steam exhibit:- Neil Hucker and models belonging to Andrew Harris. Judging is a very difficult task, and can cause upset, but there is always another rally next year and personally I would rather have a proper presentation at the end of the afternoon, rather than just drift away. Sunday raffle winners were Linda Moore, Audrey Harris, George Weedon, Wendy Gane, Don Stevens, Rodney Harris, Krista Humphrey, Mandy Routley, June Westlake, Jackie Lambert and Sue Dry. Prizes included radios, wine, book, powder and cuddly toys. I wonder if Eric dreams of raffles or are they nightmares?

Herb Gane and Brian Verrall thanked everyone for attending, hoped they had enjoyed themselves and have a safe journey home. Thanks also should go to all the non committee members who gave up their time to help in various ways during the weekend.

P.S. It did rain a little !! Brian Munt (Chairman retired) was heard to say... 'not enough Christians on the committee anymore..now when I was there.....'

P.P.S. Committee members are human too- and we make mistakes - and we learn from them.. I think!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CRANK-UP REPORT FROM ERIC GAY.

Sunshine and a warm evening brought members and the public flocking to the Old Down Inn, for this years spring crank-up. But as Maureen and I arrived we thought we had come to the local undertakers night out, we were confronted by a large shiny black hearse, a bit of a shock! however all was well as there was not a body in the back, but a model traction. I wonder if this is another first for the Wessex (traction engine transported by hearse). You must admit it is different.

We found a space and with the help from many willing hands unloaded the Petter. Engine loading is not to be recommended when you have broken ribs. Thanks to everyone for your help. With the engine running, I commenced to sell raffle tickets, as well as taking a good look at the assembled engine. Twenty five in all, well done lads, a jolly good turnout. I won't list all the engines present, but they ranged from lighting plants, both petrol and gas power, open crank Ruston Hornby's, Lister 'D' types, Wolseley and a Bull Dog. (I just hope this is not culled in the Governments' dog clean up!!!!)

Music was supplied by Ann Day doing a wonderful job turning the handle of the street piano, while David tended the fire on his portable model steam engine.

I managed to get Maureen to buy me a pint as I kept busy selling raffle tickets, it must have been the socket sets attracting everyone to part with their money, or perhaps its my subtle approach. Well thank you all, profit from our monthly raffle really is a big help towards our club expenses. Prizes were won by Mr. Russell, Mary Verrall, Roy Cox and Marg Appleby. As dusk fell the lights from the Glasgow lighting plant cast shadows up through the large beech tree, turning the leaves to gold, light from the moon and a few stars now shining made a very attractive scene as the evening drew to a close. It was now time to load up and head for home. I would like to say thank you to everyone for a splendid show and an enjoyable evening. Many thanks also to Brian and Ray, from the committee for all your work roping off the display area. Hoping you all have a good and safe rally season.

E.J. GAY.

(Thank you Eric for your report, although we had a report on this event from E.B. its nice to have one through someone elses eyes.) ED.

HELP LINES

I have now been a member of the W.S.E.C. for many years and in all this time I have neverreceived any offer of assistance with restoration problems from any other club member. I know their are always members wanting something, welding, a bush made, a magneto looked at, someone who can do a bit of turning etc. Now me and wood don't mix so if you can supply carpentry skills I would be glad of advice when I want to make my next engine trolley. So lets start our own Club help line. If you can supply a skill or any help that may be of use to another club member, let me know and I will compile a help line for club members to be printed in the newsletter. So come on don't be shy, give it a try and lets get the club spirit and give someone a hand, you never know, you may make another friend, and a friend is always worth having. E.J. Gay, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel: 0225 754374.

(This was mentioned briefly in last months newsletter and you have confirmed that there is a need for help and advice, so to anyone who can and is prepared to meet these requirements do contact Eric or any committee member.) ED.

SOCIAL EVENING - November 9th at The Cave Man, Cheddar. Entertainment will be by the same group as we had at Cheddar, now renamed 'Idle Fret'. Tickets will be £8.00 per head and the menu is as follows:- Minestrone Soup with Parmesan Cheese or Chilled Fruit Juice. Roast Beef Yorkshire Pudding and Horseradish Sauce or Roast Turkey with Bacon, Chipolatas and stuffing, vegetables are Brussel Sprouts, Buttered Carrots, Roast and Boiled Potatoes. Home made Sherry Trifle or Black Forest Gateaux or Home Made Apple Pie with Fresh Cream. Cheddar Cheese Board and Biscuits and last but not least Coffee with Cream.

FOR SALE

2 - Lister 'A' type engines. One in very good order , mains - big end and bore in excellent order, magneto in full working order. Needs repaint and fuel tank. £80 or near offer. Second one is as found, condition easy restoration. No cracks or damage £35. Contact E.J. Gay, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, BA14 ONX. Tel: 0225 754374.

Ford Cortina MK2 1600 E Black, 1968. Tax and MOT May 1992. Four new tyres, new shoes and pads, new vinyl roof, new sun roof, chrome roxstyle wheels, car alarm fitted. Bodywork and mechanically excellent. Offers Tel: 0225 755654.

WANTED

Wolseley WD2, must be in reasonable condition and price. Please contact Mr. Phil Caudle, 12 Worcester Park, Larkhall, Bath. BA1 6QU. or Tel: Bath 316794.

ROB'S TRAVELS.

Bradford on Avon Hospital Fete - Saturday June 8th. This has for many years now become an annual event and stationary engines are included in this show, situated on the hospital lawns and under the stewardship of Tony Jones. About a dozen engines helped to entertain the enormous amount of public who support this event. There's always a bargain to be had here amongst the numerous stalls and with the delightful music playing of the Corsham Town Band, a very relaxing and enjoyable day took place. Everyone must have dug really deep into their pockets as the final takings for the day amounted to £1,600.

Nestle's Factory Fete, Staverton - Sunday June 9th This Sunday event was the start of a whole week long of events organised by Nestle's. A very large field next to the factory housed the stationary engine line and an exhibitor marquee that was more like a ballroom!! it even included a dance floor and chandeliers. Inside entertainment in the marquee showed a karate display, Morris dancers, skittles and many more small exhibitions, you could even have a medical check in there. Outside was a barbeque, army exhibits and the fire brigade, and the highlight of the afternoon was a free fall parachute drop which went without a hitch, considering that it was very windy and showery. A very nice afternoon was spent here and thanks to Dave Clack for looking after our section.

Bath Steam Vintage Festival - June 22nd & 23rd Club members who attended this show are probably still having nightmares of how foul weather for two days can have a shattering effect on rallying. Most exhibitors had to be towed out of the field on Sunday afternoon, when what should have been a superb weekend was ruined by continuous rain. The look on the stewards and organisers faces told it all, what a shame such a lovely weekend was ruined. It also reminded me of our own Cheddar rally how lucky we were to have only one wet day.

Southwick Scouts Fete - Saturday June 29th As the result of a phone call from our Secretary Shirley, that the stationary engine entries were somewhat small in numbers, Bill and I took along the Lister 'B' and the Delco to help fill up the line, and what a superb afternoon it was, the weather stayed fine despite the forecast. There were ring events that included a marching band, falconary show, dog show and a wild west shoot out!! A whole field full of vintage tractors, motor bikes and cars, lorries, stalls and radio hams. A very enjoyable afternoon, and we were even fed and watered in the refreshment room. Well done to the Scouts and their supporters.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CLUTTON FLOWER SHOW - Saturday August 10th A new event for stationary engines. Any club member who would like to support this event please contact Ben Martin, 28 Venus Lane, Clutton. Tel: 0761 53144. Also included in the event is ferret racing, so any member who has one and would like to give his pet a day out!!! rally it with your engine.

WORLE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY This is their 57th Annual Flower Show to be held on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 1991 at Priory School, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare. Stationary engines invited for static display. Please contact Dave Tabrett, 12 Appledore, Bideford Road, Worle, Weston super Mare, Avon. BS22 0LA.

CORSLEY SHOW Nr. Frome - Bank Holiday Monday - August 26th 1991 Approximately a dozen stationary engines required, please contact Rob Lambert, 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome. Tel: (0373) 463526 if you would like to attend.

WELLOW FLOWER SHOW & COUNTRY FAIR Saturday 31st August from 2pm to 6pm.

This is a very popular event with a craft marquee, gymnastics, Kookie the Clown and a rare breeds section to name but a few. Stationary engines are required and would be made very welcome. Brass plaques will be given to each exhibitor. This events stationary engine section was run by Jeremy Adams, but unfortunately due to work commitments he has had to give it up, so we are also looking for someone to take over this section. Meanwhile if you would like to attend contact Lois Gumm, 'Windyridge', Wellow, Nr. Bath BA2 8QA or ring (0225) 835840.

"THANK -YOU - Anne Carney and Mary Walton would like to thank the people who donated cakes for their stall at the Cheddar Rally. We had great fun dodging the showers, and taking the polythene covers on and off. We had sold out by 1 pm on Sunday and were able to donate £45.00 for club funds. If the committee agree we would like to repeat the venture next year!!

(Nice one Anne and Mary, I lost count of how many times you had to cover your mouth watering cakes as the rain came and went but you both made a very good contribution to club funds) ED.

PRODUCT REVIEW - EXHAUST SILENCER POTS FOR SMALL ENGINES.

The Alyn Foundry of Wrexham are manufacturing cast iron silencer bottles for small engines, in two sizes. The smaller is 4½" diameter to suit up to ½ hp engines, and the larger 6" version up to 1½ hp. The parts as supplied consist of a bottle and bottom cover, as cast and ready for your machine. The smaller version can be finished on a 3½" lathe, the large bottle will require some bigger facilities. The bottle can be gripped, by its closed end, in a 4 jaw chuck to machine the bottom flange; the casting is then reversed for drilling and tapping of the exhaust pipe hole in the top. A cast pad at the bottom of the bottle is provided for the inlet pipe tapping from the engine. The cover is cast with a chucking piece to enable the edge and one side to be machined. The second side does not necessarily require machining but if not done, then spot facing of the cover holes fixing holes is desirable. The user is left to decide the cover fixing arrangements for himself but a circle of six or so ¼" Whitworth studs suits the small version. Some method of mounting also has to be arranged and pillars can be turned up to fit the studs for this. Providing the machined finish is reasonable on the bottom flange and cover, no gasket is required. The small version reviewed by the author machined like cheese, the iron had no hard spots even in the cover which is thin by casting standards. The finished article certainly looks the part to compliment a small vintage engine, and could easily have been cast 100 years ago.

These exhausts (together with several engine kits) are available from:-

ALYN FOUNDRY; 14 Ffordd Lerry, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL12 8JB.

4½" silencer £11.00 plus £5.00 postage.

6" silencer £16.50 plus £5.00 postage.

J.J. ADAMS.

VIDEO REVIEWS.

"Classic British Engines" - from Photographic Bureau Productions is reasonably priced, considering its specialist market at £13.99 plus £1.00 p & p. This video is three quarters of an hour of absorbing viewing for anyone remotely interested in stationary engines. About twelve engines have been carefully selected to give a broad view of the history of the oil engine and its development over the past hundred years. This is not just a video of engines running at rallies; it deals with each example in some detail with a clear and interesting commentary which does not intrude into the main soundtrack. It features such engines as Blackstone, Gardner, Crossley, Otto Crossley, Hornsby Akroyd, Richard Hornsby, Robinson, Clayton and many more. The highlight of the film is the start, running and stopping of a huge Crossley with all the appropriate sounds as it slowly dies away to rest. The quality of the picture is better than many videos from the larger concerns and the audio is first class. A must for every engineman; birthday, anniversary or even Christmas present, but beware! - if you leave it for the latter you may be too late.....! Available from Tim Macaire, Photographic Bureau Productions, Mole Cottage, Southole, Hartland, Bideford, Devon. EX39 6HW.

ERIC G. BRAIN.

"Wessex S.E.C. Annual Rally, Cheddar 1991" - Asked by our Chairman to have a look at, and do a review of this video, I asked him, what he thought of it and he had mixed feelings. I certainly never, I would sum it up as approximately 1 hour of good entertainment, it even brought home to me all that I missed during the weekend. Good interviews were held by Pauline Warder, as she asked a cross section of exhibitors to talk about their engines, cars, motor-bikes and organs, and it was nice to see so many people enjoying themselves despite the rain on Saturday. If club members or friends would like to purchase a copy contact Waterside Video Productions. Tel: Mere (0747) 860231 or 860 791. The price is around £11.00

COACH TRIP Due to lack of support the Coach trip to Dorset Steam Fair on Saturday August 31st is cancelled. All money paid will be refunded.

OVERHEARD IN THE LADIES LOO..... "Hurt his back offloading it, pulled his shoulder trying to start it, tripped over the can of petrol and broke his toe - now he wants ME to drive the car and trailer home!! Yes, it's our first rally.....!!