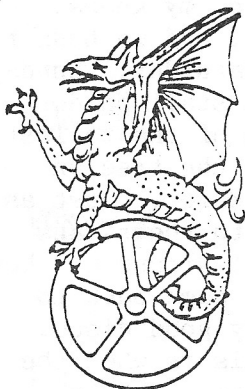


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

JULY 1992

Please send newsletter material to:-

Robin Lambert,
15 Beechwood Avenue,
FROME,
Somerset.
BA11 2AX

Tel: (0373) 463526

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CLUB RALLY

Our Wessex Rally was at a new venue at Semington, it seems to have been discussed at every committee meeting since September and will be a relief to not have 'rally' on the agenda.

The entries came in from December onwards, totalling 188 stationary engines, 10 models, 12 commercials and over 35 each of cars, motor cycles and tractors, various interesting collections and a steamer. Wonderful.

We arrived on Friday evening to an already well filled field, the rain arrived fifteen minutes later!! Saturday appeared all too soon and in came the exhibitors and trade stalls. Lots of new faces and some well remembered past (.I have great problems remembering names and faces. I'm not really rude, just forgetful.) The committee and much appreciated helpers swung into action and the rally started rolling. During the day the ring was used by the majorettes from Trowbridge and a parade of mobile entries, that was good. Thank you to our on the spot commentators, Tom Randall, Gerald Atherton and Brian Verrall. The public came in, slow but steady and we breathed a sigh of relief - not a total disaster. (Saturday public on Saturday was nearly as many as we got over two days at Cheddar.) The evening was fine, barbeque lit, 10lbs of onions peeled, group set up in Herbie Gane's lorry, but sadly many people went elsewhere, so in my opinion cancel the group and B.B.Q. next year, I saw four people dance all evening - looks like 'rally' will be on the agenda for a while longer.

Saturday night was short and Sunday began with us looking for our dog Eddie who was attending his first camping weekend and gone A.W.O.L. We searched high and low, eventually Andy started the Landrover and made to go onto the road to look further away...and Eddie appeared, very pleased at the thought he was going out. A number of exhibits arrived early on Sunday morning and four vendors made enquiries for next year.

There were some lovely engines and exhibits. The section judges went around and around trying to make a decision. Awards were presented late on Sunday afternoon by our President Herbie Gane. Cups for awarded to John Kyte, Stan Kerley and Dennis Hodges, the Junior Shield to Nathan Amos and rosettes to Ian Craddock - tractor, Nick Byrne - commercial, Tony Beeching - steamer, Gerry Warre - visiting engine, and Richard Payne - motor cycle and car. This done Herb thanked all who helped and attended and made the weekend a success.

We had a raffle on Saturday night and also another on Sunday which was drawn after the awards presentation, well done to all the winners, too many to mention. Then it became a mad scramble to collect your plaque, load up and be away.

Mumbles? two minor R.T.A.'s with drivers rubber necking on the road, insufficient rubbish sacks out and comments on parking away from the engines. Plenty to talk about at the next committee meeting. On the whole I feel and hope most people enjoyed their weekend, most of the comments have been favourable and I would like to reiterate Herb's thanks to all who helped in anyway. I'm not naming names as so many people deserve thanks and I'm sure to forget someone and therefore cause hurt. Thank you all.

Best wishes and happy safe rallies.

SHIRLEY GALE.

THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

The weekend dawned hot and sunny and off we set for a weekend at 'Cricket St. Thomas', little did we know what a weekend it would be. On arrival I jumped out of the Landrover to greet Evelyn and Ivor and tripped over their toilet tent guy rope and landed on my knees. No trouble I thought until I saw the tent. I'd made a good job of ripping it, and we hadn't even unhitched the caravan. We had a laugh and settled in to enjoy a sunny Saturday. Sunday was equally as hot and after a reasonable quiet day the fun started again. A stall holder let out his parrot 'Bertie' for a fly, great thought Bertie and flew into one of the tallest trees it could find. Out came fire engine and crew to raise the owner up into the tree on his ladders, very gently does it! Guess who's in front of the audience, yes Roger. Just as the owner reached Bertie he flew away again. Fun over, most people returned to their vans to get ready for a night at the Pavilion. Not Roger, he chased the parrot all around Cricket for over an hour. Needless to say they never caught him. When Roger finally came back to the van he got spruced up and we had an enjoyable night rocking away to a very good disco, including Rolling Stones records of course. Monday dawned even hotter and this is when the fun really began. Roger was sat by his engine under the sun umbrella, complete with J.R. sunhat and glasses when 'whoops' a swarm of bees landed under the umbrella. Never have you seen anything like it, they landed all over the underneath of the brolly and in about 20 mins. had made a cone down the centre pole. Never had Roger had so many spectators in one go, camera's clicked solidly and video's were taken, people swarmed from ever direction, not for the engine but for the bees. They weighed so heavy we had to prop the umbrella up with a stick as they started to tilt over.

As the rally drew to a close the field emptied except our umbrella, we went to take one last look at the bees and who should fly overhead but 'Bertie'. I went home clutching my camera and thought what a super weekend with lots of photo's to remember it by, but no when I went to get out the film, it hadn't connected in the camera so alas I've no photo's at all. Never mind here's to next year.

LYN & ROGER PIKE. (I understand that 'Bertie' is safe and well and was seen with his owner at Boscombe Air Day and the umbrella is safe as well).

A REPORT FROM OUR MOST DISTANT CLUB MEMBER.

I drove down from Lauder, in Berwickshire, Scotland to Semington, 366 miles, met Brian Verrall at the gate at 7 p.m. and had pleasant words or otherwise with him, then dumped my trailer and had something to eat. On Saturday I went around the junk stalls and making my way back to my engine I met some friends from Edinburgh who were down at Bournemouth on holiday and looked in on their way home.

Who? organised the fly past of the Hercules transporters, also the Red Arrows further to the west. Nice to see a good turn out of tractors at an engine rally, given the public a wider view of the past and tractors do have engines!

Got a bottle of plonk in the Sunday raffle, also Shirley and daughter wished me goodbye (at least I think that was what they said) so thank you Wessex Club.

ANDY MERCER.

Nice to see you again Andy, hope you had a pleasant journey home. ED.

BRADFORD ON AVON HOSPITAL FETE.

A nice thank you letter was received by Tony Jones from the League of Friends, Bradford-on-Avon Hospital to thank our club members for their continued support by putting on a display of engines at their annual fete. They raised £2,300 a most acceptable sum. ED.

Its rally time again
We get out our engine
We give it a crank
Its been standing all winter
Not surprising it won't go
Its got petrol and oil
The mag thats new

The plugs need replacing
You curse and you fume
A replacement is found
You crank it again
Not a spark
Not even a groan
A rally you take it

And ask the next chap
Out come the spanners
Sandpaper and all that
In no time at all
And a few prayers later
A spark and a crank
Hooray its rally time again.

MRS. C.J. RUSSELL.

A letter has been sent to Brian Verrall from Richard Payne, thanking all the club members who sponsored him on the Lands End to John O Groats run. Unfortunately everything went wrong, problems with the bike and illness. However all money received will go to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Telethon in the near future. He expresses his thanks once again.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Mells Flower Show - August 29th 1992 at the Recreation Field, Mells, Nr. Frome, Somerset.
Engines, Cars and Motor Cycles etc. wanted. Entries to Bert or Betty Barton on 0373 - 812340.

- FOR SALE - 1926 Lawn Mower made by The Automower Engineering Co., Norton St. Philip. It an A.Z.A. engine (J.A.P.) M.L. Mag, good spark also spares list (1928) revise for Mower and engine - £65.00
Hand operated Pillar drill, automatic feed. - £30.00
Contact Alan Sweet, Arch Villa, Bread Street, Pilton, Shepton Mallet or Tel: 0479 890586.
- FOR SALE International Harvester 'M' type, low tension mag. 1½hp (horizontal enclosed) very good condition - £350. Contact Simon Stacey, 117 Rodden Road, Frome, Somerset or Tel: 0373 472328.
- FOR SALE Non Runners - 5 hp Moteurs Deville unusual French engine, some damage £65.
Petter Universal 2 hp plus hand book, no petrol tank £60.
WIPAC Series A Mag. good spark £25.
WICO Series A Twin Mag. £15.
Contact Brian Reakes. Tel: Keynsham 868549.
- FOR SALE Internation Farmall H Chassis No. FBH 188752 x 3 Reg. No. FO 4482 FR 1940 Running Order, good condition V5.
International Farmall A Chassis No. FAA 35035 Reg. No. BBX 964 FR 1939 Running Order, Good condition V5 New Tyres, Petrol, T.V.O.
Allis Chalmers Model B - Chassis NO. B87289 Reg. No. LDE 679.
Allis Chalmers Model B Chassis No. EB 87265 Reg. No. AEJ 250.
David Brown Cropmaster First Reg. 12/4/50 Reg. No. FTH 325 Chassis No. F31089, Petrol, T.V.O.
David Brown 30D 1955 Reg. No. PAD 941. Diesel.
David Brown Vakia First Reg. 1945 Reg. No. CBX 941.
Land Rover First Reg. 29/6/50 Reg. No. AEJ 655.
Land Rover First Reg. 1956 Reg. No. TUY 32 Chassis No. 116 800067.
Standard Pony Truck Reg. No. CHP 786B. The only one left in the U.K. Running order. Good Condition. Engine NOX 962E 1300 c.c. V5 Chassis No. X737.
- For any of the 10 for sales above contact: William Davies, Cwmcoedifor, Rhydcymerau, LLANDEILO, Dyfed, SA19 7PN. Tel: 0558 685 284. All prices negotiable.
- WANTED 20' of 2" or 2½" Flat Belting. Contact Bill Coombes 0749 840868 (Oakhill).
- Semington Rally Video - Available from Mr. D.B. Cross, 31 Watson Crescent, Sandleigh, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. OX13 6DS. Priced at £10.00. Quote film No. 80.

VIDEO REVIEWBLACKSTONE & COMPANY - OIL ENGINES.

This latest offering from Knight-Macaire, released in time for the Tatton Park Rally, is a worthy companion to their previous publication 'Classic British Stationary Engines' but has a slightly longer running time of 58 minutes. As its title suggests, it traces the history of the Oil Engine through the Blackstone Company; from its origin in the Reliance engine of 1894 through historical changes from continuous lamp engines to the present day Mirrlees diesel engines.

Many miles have been covered all over the UK searching out the best examples of the different types and styles of Blackstone engines, from Hot-bulb, S.F.C., verticals, Carter's patent spring injection, both in preservation or still doing a useful job of work. The working principles of each type and methods of starting are ably explained in the commentary. Also included are unique works photographs and footage of Mirrlees Blackstones present day machine shop and its dramatic foundry casting a V-16 engine bed weighing ten tonnes.

The sights and sounds of Blackstone engines running must surely keep any stationary engine enthusiast enthralled so engine-wives (especially YOU Audrey Harris..!) heres just the present you have been searching for for HIM in your life.

Produced in VHS format only and available from Tim Macaire, Mole Cottage, Southole, Hartland, Bideford, Devon. EX39 6HW priced at £14.99 plus £1.00 p & p.

ERIC G. BRAIN.

OVERHEARD IN THE LADIES LOO..... "..... I told him 'ther's a man at the door with some Blackstones for you. First time I have ever seen him move so fast to pay the coal-man!"

June Meeting - Dustbin Films

The end of the month soon comes around and its my turn to write a report, for me this is one of the chores of a committee member. I tend to do my best work with a hammer not a pen - so here goes.

The meeting was chaired by Eric Gay as Brian had decided he'd rather be on holiday than at the club meeting shame on him! Eric sold raffle tickets and welcomed members old and new, some 40 in total. While this was going on the club technicians were setting up the video player and T.V. set. It would appear dustbin films have gone up market in presentation at least. No more clocking projector and off the cuff banter from the projectionist. During the introduction to the evening Eric mentioned that Jackie had been sent a video of the club rally by the Vale of White Horse Preservation Group at Abingdon, and this was shown by popular demand. The video showed most of the engines at the rally, some running and a few at rest, there was no commentary this year, just engine noise and the sound of the wind. The motor bike and car sections were shown briefly, The video lasted for an hour and the video is for sale at the cost of £10.

In the interval the raffle took place, coinners were in reverse order, Marg Appleby - Wine, Sam Jackson - Wine and Mrs. Carp - Tins of Lager (Sorry to be so formal Mrs. Carp but I don't know your first name).

The second half started with the Dustbin film, sorry video, this was a Massey Ferguson sale's film showing their new grey Fergy tractor with all the attachments for dung lifting and scrapping, it went into great detail on the Fergy hydraulics(it did not mention they pinched the idea from Fords). It was noted that the transfer from film to video had managed to capture the continuing trumpet music and flickering film to perfection. The second video showed the Royal Show in 1946. Showing the horses, both cart and jumping type, also some old breeds of pigs, sheep and cattle some of which like the stockmen with them have disappeared completely from modern farms. The Royal Show was popular with foreign visitors buying the best in stock and machinery in the world so the commentator said. The next film took us to new depths in club night entertainment it was a stock breeders film on the hereditary theory on hereditary defects in livestock, it was deep and serious work the kind that student vets slept through in the 1920/30's. It explained reproduction in great detail and I think in retrospect a bit racy for a club night. I have never seen 37 club members leave a pub so fast and yet so silently, one minute they were there, next minute gone!!!!!! Just me, Eric and the projectionist, sorry video operator.

Thank the Lord thats over (The report I mean).

BRIAN REAKES.

27TH & 28TH JUNE.

B loxham, Oxfordshire is the location
A fternoon arrival more time to relax
N H.P. from 4 to 22
B eer tent supplying liquid refreshment
U mbrellas to shade us from the sun
R ides for all ages
Y ards of ropes to keep everyone safe.

S tationary engines popping and banging
T ractors - International featured this year
E arly cycles and memorabilia
A utojumble not to many
M arenghi organ plays a variety of tunes.

R ows of motor cycles lovingly restored
A rena events all through the day
L awnmowers dating from 1855
L iving vans open for viewing
Y es its the end of another glorious weekend.

TRISH JONES.

THE WONDERS OF THE POST OFFICE

I recently had a letter from the Royal Mail, Head Postmaster at Bath saying that they sincerely regretted that the enclosed had been damaged in handling by the postal service. It was a Wessex S.E.C. newsletter in perfect condition with no envelope. Someone's not going to get a newsletter I thought, perhaps I could ring the Post Office and ask what had happened to the envelope, but a few days later before I had got around to doing this I had a 'phone call from Ray Earle in Taunton, 'I've got an envelope with no newsletter in in'. Was I relieved, the mystery was solved. But all due credit must go to the Post Office for taking the trouble to send me back this lone newsletter. ED.