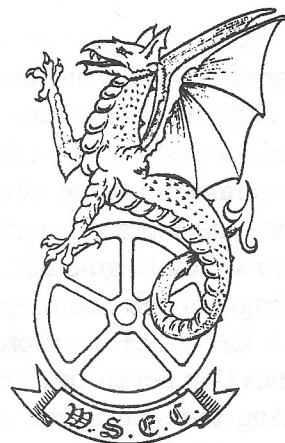


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

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## **NEWSLETTER**



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### **\*\*\*\*\* EDITORIAL \*\*\*\*\***

For several years now the membership of our Club has always been around 270 to 280, but this year it has passed the 300 mark. This really is good news for the stationary engine movement in general as it shows it is on the increase, this is also borne out by the increase in sales of The Stationary Engine Magazine, long may it continue. This increase in numbers has meant we have had to increase insurance cover to embrace more members as the previous limit was 300. This will be financed by the extra members subscriptions.

### **\*\*\*\*\* CHAIRMANS REPORT \*\*\*\*\***

Well that's the Rally over for this year. At the time of this Newsletter going to press we have no idea yet of the financial outcome as Jackie has been on holiday, but I would have thought we would have made a small profit. The new site at Cheddar was certainly the easiest we have had to set up, because it is much nearer to 'The Workforce' than Semington was, it meant we could do work on setting up during the week instead of leaving everything until the Friday. All we had to do on the Friday was put up all the ropes. We had a good entry in all sections despite clashing with other rallies. The auction attracted over 260 lots including 2 tractors which realised their reserve of £500 each. The new site and the layout seemed to be popular with all the exhibitors but despite more advertising than usual it failed to attract large numbers of the public. This upset the traders who reported poor sales. The administration of the rally especially the pay gate on the Sunday was a real problem mainly due to the boot sale, there will be a lot of discussion at future committee meetings to determine if in fact this site is suitable after all for future rallies. Your comments would be appreciated on this subject. Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway to set up the rally, carry out numerous duties during the rally or who helped to dismantle everything after the rally. Your names are too numerous to mention, but your help was invaluable.

BJB.

### **\*\*\*\*\* DO YOU KNOW THE LAW? \*\*\*\*\***

Do you know the legal speed limits for vans? The speed limit for Transit and car derived vans are as follows: Motorways-70MPH, Dual carriageways-60MPH, Single carriageways-50MPH, Urban areas-30MPH (this is without a trailer on tow).

### **\*\*\*\*\* CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN, MONDAY 26TH APRIL \*\*\*\*\***

### **\*\*\*\*\* CLOCKMAKING BY MR TERRY TAYLOR \*\*\*\*\***

Our Chairman Brian introduced and welcomed Terry Taylor from Midsomer Norton. Terry went into the business as an apprentice under the watchful eye of his father, they mainly do clock repairs and cleaning. Terry's first year was taken up polishing brass, scrubbing and cleaning all the dismantled parts, if any parts got broken new ones would have to be made and then re-assembled. The first clock he worked on was a French clock of the 1820's. He bought with him a nice selection of watches and old clocks. He had a 1600's travel alarm, normally they would have been owned by the gentry of that period. There was also a gallery clock from Ston Easton House - a 1880's heavy cast clock, pocket watch, a military watch from the last war made in Switzerland, a pilots watch from the war and a clock from a Messerschmidt. Own Club members were invited to go up to the front to look at the clocks during the break. Terry's talk was very informative and at questiontime he answered all the questions the members asked, he said he could go on all night, he was very knowledgeable on his subject. Brian thanked Terry for coming. I understand he has a small museum attached to his shop in Midsomer Norton. We had our usual raffle with about 15 or so prizes of which some were donated by the members. They ranged from whisky won by Phil Marshall, basket of fruit - Jackie Lambert, bottles of wine, biscuits, tape measure, perfume etc. Our guest speaker won some sweets which he said would do nicely for his grandchildren.

J.J.L.

\*\*\*\*\* CHURCHILL MAY FAIR - SATURDAY 1ST MAY 1999 \*\*\*\*\*

Few customs conjure up what is quintessentially more English than a traditional May Fair. Churchill has a lively village community and each year on or as near to May Day as possible the primary school hold their annual May Fair. The children always dance around a tall beribboned May Pole, sometimes in perfect symmetry, and sometimes in knots! However it has never been so bad that scissors are needed to untangle the dancers! During the afternoon a cricket match was played on the neighbouring pitch, the gentle tap of willow on leather carrying across on the breeze, against the more raucous and ribald cheering of the tug-of-war teams!! I'm not sure who envied whom? Morris Dancers, Fire Engines, Skittles, and various exciting prize draws all featured throughout the afternoon. Members of the Engine Club had been invited to bring along engines to add to the multitude of stalls, side-shows and exhibits which the May Fair offered. This year was no exception, Brian Reed had assembled a fine display of 14 different engines (I'm not so sure about their owners!). The day was one of our rare warm spring days with only a light breeze blowing the smoke and exhaust fumes all across the fair field - perfect rallying weather! The engines featured included Richard and Angie Gill's 1924 Stuart Turner N-Type and Stuart pump as illustrated on the front of the Stationary Engine Magazine June 1999 issue. Ralph Crisp's beautifully painted Wolesley WD8; a model 'E' Economy engine owned by Phil Marshall and driving a Massey Harris Grinding Mill; Trevor Ware's 2 1/4 Amanco and Pump; a Wolesley (something!) which John Brookes brought along; Gerald Atherton's Lister 'L', in original condition which has been in the family since it was purchased by his Grandfather in 1925. Brian Taylor's 1 3/4 Bamford; as well as John, Den and Maggie Chapman's Lister D and display. Brian Reed's two Victoria's, as well as a Petter 'S' Hot Bulb ignition chuffed and coughed throughout the afternoon with the occasional loud bang to keep some youngster members of the public awe struck. One small girl of between 4 and 5 spent nearly all her time wandering along the line of engines watching in wonderment - a junior member perhaps in a few years? I should mention that her Mum did her utmost to get her to go and look at other things, but after a reluctant break, back she came again to watch these wonderful moving engines! Tony Target was on hand to judge the engines and discuss the weather! I'm not sure if he found the judging more difficult than the weather forecasting! However in the event and after long deliberations between the merits of an Enfield Diesel displayed by John Hancock and a Ruston P.R., driving a pump, which Bob Lodge had bought along. The honours (or should I say the bottle of whiskey) went to Bob Lodge. Well done Bob! As for me, well I always enjoy the peace and quiet of the rally field being able to relax and chat to friends, old and new. This year, however, I was well pleased. I purchased a new lampshade the exact shade I had been looking for 40p; a book on Canal Boats 20p, and best of all, I won a large bottle of Gin on the Tombola! Funnily enough the rest of the day took on a rosy hue, we went home and Gerald cooked tea!!!

Hazel Atherton.

\*\*\*\*\* OBITUARY \*\*\*\*\*

It is with regret and sadness that we learn of the death of Keith Reader. Keith had a lot of friends within our club, also throughout the Stationary Engine movement. He will be a great loss to us all, not just for his knowledge of our hobby but also for his jovial wit and leg pulling that would take place on and off the rally field. Keith lived near the old Severn Bridge (on the Welsh side). He had many interests which included motor-cycling on his B.M.W. bike, aircraft and industrial archaeology, he would travel all over the country looking at industrial sites of interest. We will all miss Keith and his banter and will always have fond memories of him that will not be forgotten.

R.L.

**Keith Reader (Sept 1934 to June 1999)**

It is with great sorrow that the stationary engine movement mourns the sudden death of Keith Reader on June 11th after a short illness. Keith (known to his many friends as 'Chepstow') was a dedicated rally goer and could be found at engine rallies anywhere all over the country, from Tatton Park in Cheshire to Ardingly in Sussex, or to St Agnes in Cornwall. His last rally was at Abergavenny where, at the age of 64 years, he was enthusiastically filling in his forms for his retirement pension. Keith had worked for many years for the Red & White Bus Company in Chepstow where he was a foreman fitter and thus had acquired a deep knowledge of Gardner diesel engines. He started rallying engines in the early 1970's, his favourite undoubtedly being the 6hp Melco-Brownwall and up to his death he was enjoying his early retirement with the ongoing restoration of a small Ingeco. He was a keen motorcyclist and in later years had graduated on from a BSA to a BMW and was an active member of the BMW club. His sense of humour, cheery smile and hearty laughter by which he was known to his many rallying friends will be a sad loss to the engine rally scene. Our condolences go to his sister and the family.

ERIC BRAIN.



**\*\*\*\*\* ANNUAL CLUB RALLY - 19/20TH JUNE AT WINCHESTER FARM, CHEDDAR \*\*\*\*\***

A 40 mile move in a westerly direction was to be our venue this year, from last years site at Semington to a new site at Cheddar. Many Club members have fond memories of several years ago when we were at Cheddar Football ground and this years site was only a few fields away from the old pitch. Jackie, Bill, Marg and myself arrived quite early on Friday morning to find a lot of exhibitors had beaten us to it and most of the field was already set up with fence posts and pegs marking out where everything was going, a lot of this work was done on previous evenings during that week which must have taken a lot of pressure off having to do it all on the Friday morning. The very hot weather on Friday brought exhibitors in droves and I would say that two thirds were in place by Friday evening, which is fine as it elevates congestion on Saturday morning. Not many engines were running on Saturday morning as their owners were attending 'The Auction' and our Chairman Brian in his best auctioneers patter began to sell some 252 lots, he was assisted by Mary Phillips and Norman Finnamore and had athletic Colin Curtis as runner to take completed auction sheets back to Jackie and Mary Butler for processing. The auction took 3.5 hours which must have been a strain on Brians voice. After lunch the stationary engines came to life and what a great collection. Brian Reed should have a medal for bringing not one but four Bristol Wagon & Carriage Works Victoria's, which took two journeys from Churchill to site and all the loading and off loading, you certainly did a good job Brian, but we haven't finished yet, next to Brian were six Amancos which ranged from sizes 1 3/4 hp to 9hp and were all owned by the same person. I'm sorry I don't know his name but it was a wonderful display. Lines of tractors, cars, motor bikes and commercials all looked splendid in their sections and were to do their stuff around the ring under the directions of ring master Brian Verrall. Our special guest on Saturday morning was the Lady Mayor of Axbridge accompanied by her deputy and on arrival was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Kate Nicholson, they spent an hour being chaperoned around the field by Robin and safety officer Alan Carney who took some photographs. 'Old Henry' - I say old as he is getting on a bit now but still doing a great job of hauling the water cart along with man servant and owner Brian Lovell. This trusty old Fordson tractor did a stirring job over the weekend keeping all engines supplied with coolant - thank you Brian. (Have you noticed that the Wessex Stationary Engine Club is well supplied with Brian's). Jim and Carol Coxhead had their juvenile funfair at the lower end of the field to keep the little ones happy whilst Mum and Dad viewed the exhibits. Saturday evening came and exhibitors made their way to the large barn type building which housed the bar and was also the hall for entertainment. I estimated around 200 people gathered either inside or out of here for an evening of Country and Western by 'Bitter Creek' a popular singer that we have had before. At the interval it was time to present the awards judges by our good friends from the Dorset Club - Dan and Steve. Best Vertical Engine - Lister L type owned by Edwards Carp Senior, Best Horizontal Engine - National owned by Ed Thorne. Best Working Engine - Wolseley & Shearing Outfit owner by Norman Finnamore, Best in Show - Ruston Hornsby owned by Brian Taylor, Best Junior - Lister 'D' owned by Kate Nicholson. A special well done to Katie as she is the first young lady to win this award and will have her name engraved on the junior shield. The raffle was the next thing to take place with some 40 prizes on the table, Linda and Carol had been around the field all day selling tickets and had done a tremendous job looking at the amount of tickets in the revolving drum, with the aid of Brian, Colin and Linda I sped through the raffle fairly quickly and our entertainment resumed. A special thank you to all who bought raffle prizes, this is always a big help and much appreciated. Another raffle took place on Sunday with Linda, Hazel and Brian doing the rounds, and my good lady was fortunate to win two tickets to a concert on Wells Cathedral Green. Our gate staff for most of the weekend was Ray, Roger and Tony who had a very taxing time and I believe our attendance figures were slightly down on past years despite a lot of advertising in magazines and newspapers. Lesley held the fort on the Club Sale ably helped by her family and our Secretary Ann was kept busy on reception as exhibitors arrived on Friday and Saturday and was still checking people in when it was dark. (perhaps we should have a holding area for arrival after 9pm????). To sum up - from my point of view a great weekend for the exhibitors made possible by our committee and their helpers. Unfortunately the administration of this rally alongside the landowners car boot on both days was a bit of a nightmare, but this can be looked at for the future as all in all it was a nice site in lovely surroundings. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves, if you did or perhaps you didn't please feel free to let your Committee know your views so that we can be able to put things right for another time.

RL.

**\*\*\*\*\* NEW MEMBERS \*\*\*\*\***

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club would like to welcome the following new members; Mr J Cook and Miss S Gibson from Wookey, Mr David Hann from Wedmore and Mr Graham Harding from Warsash, Hampshire. We hope your membership with the Club will be a long and happy one.

\*\*\*\*\* THE MARKET PLACE \*\*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE. LARGE RAC** road sign dated 1938, 84" x 37", white enamel background with direction signs A350 Westbury, Chippenham, A361 Trowbridge, A365 Bath, complete with gas light bracket understood to be from Semington roundabout before reconstruction £300 ono. Tel: Dave Stuart 01566 781337 (Nr Launceston, Cornwall).

**FOR SALE. COVENTRY** climax fire pump circa mid 1950's. F.W. engine 1057cc, o.h.c., rarer 'Barrow' mounted type for trailer use. Ex Derbyshire fire service. About condition 2. Tel: Phil Caudle on 01225 316794 Bath £100 ono.

**FOR SALE. COLLECTION** of Motoring Magazines 'Classic & Sports Car' 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989. 'Classic Car' 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990. £5 per year or offers for lot, must be sold. Contact Phil Caudle on 01225 316794 Bath.

**FOR SALE. WEBB WHIPPET** 12" cut hand mower, complete with grass box, circa 1963, condition - fair £12. Contact Phil Caudle on 01225 316794 Bath.

**FOR SALE. 1911-1912 LISTER J TYPE.** No 3714 on large turn-table trolley, unrestored but a runner £350 ono Ring 01373 466782 (Frome area).

**FOR SALE. PISTON RINGS** most sizes available. Ring John Cox with your requirements on 01425 652627.

**FOR SALE. SECOND-HAND BOILER SUITS**, good condition, just laundered 49" chest, now down to £4 each with £1 into Club funds for each sale. Ring Tony on 01373 464982.

**FOR SALE. WOLSELEY** 36503 WD8 1.5hp on metal frame with saw bench, offers Tel 01373 466688.

**WANTED. AIR VESSEL** for Godwin pump and any information. Ring Tony on 01373 464982.

\*\*\*\*\* SODBURY SORT-OUT \*\*\*\*\*

We went to Sodbury Sort-Out arriving reasonably early (for me!) about 10am. The mud was better than anticipated, rubbery but manageable just, with my electric scooter. Lots of sellers, good attendance of buyers, relatively easy to get close and see everything. There was a good mix of goodies for sale to suit male and female buyers. Lots of stationary engines for sale. At the first stall Alan added to his collection of Dunlop footpumps, further on I fell for a one person plough, with an engine in a large wheel in need of restoration, but I couldn't haggle the price down low enough. We looked at a push mower but it wasn't old enough for Alan. There was a keen wind to say the least, laced with sleet at one stage. I found large hanging baskets and egg baskets at 50p each on another stall. The boot and shoe stall had chunky socks at a good price so 12 pairs were bought for Xmas presents. Further on a water damaged stock sale rendered two window dummies for £3 the pair. Lots of rusty junk A Dennis mower, very big £500. Ex military goodies, agricultural bits and pieces from tyres to tractors. A vintage motorcycle, old bicycles and spanners (I found a horse carriage spanner). I spotted a one piece waterproof suit at the right price, much wanted by Alan for 'grovelling underground' caving on the Mendips. We met very interesting people and I get great pleasure from hearing the conversations going on and enjoying the various local accents. Its great that something is being preserved and appreciated. All is not lost.

**WICK.** After much rain we popped down to Wick, parked near the hard standing into the smooth paddock, much dried out by the sun and wind by the time we arrived. Just over a dozen small sellers, trailers loads, lots of stationary engines and bits, a collection of old agricultural tools and oil cans, not much for the ladies but I found some horse bits and a tooth rasp.

**KINGTON LANGLEY.** We came home the pretty way from Wick, surprise surprise! We called back at the farm sale after Wick, all sorts of odds and ends, some going very cheap, old hammock for £1. Some lots very pricey, several hundred pounds. Two milk coolers made £15, a cauldron pot making £100. A clocking in dial in need of restoration made several hundred pounds, an iron bath with good feet nudged towards £200. We picked up a Greens push mower, a Siens mower and a one man push hoe (old rusty junk!) for a reasonable price.

VALERIE ROGERS.

\*\*\*\*\* EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY \*\*\*\*\*

**SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST** - Coach Trip to Ironbridge, World Heritage Site at Telford. Ring Jackie on 01373 463526 to book you seat. The coach fare and entrance fee is just £15 for adults, children free.

**MONDAY 23RD AUGUST** - Club Night at The Old Down Inn. A talk by commander Frewer on submarines. Please note the early date due to the Bank Holiday.

**SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER** - Tencrest Crank-Up and Car Boot Sale at Brian Fears Garage, Nr Gurney Slade. Ring Roger on 01761 233028 to book your entry.

**SATURDAY 2ND OCTOBER** - Skittles and social evening at Cheddar Football Club, 8pm, Grand Raffle. Ploughmans buffet type supper (the faggots are already ordered). Ring Jackie on 01373 463526 if you wish to attend. Open to all members, the more the merrier.