

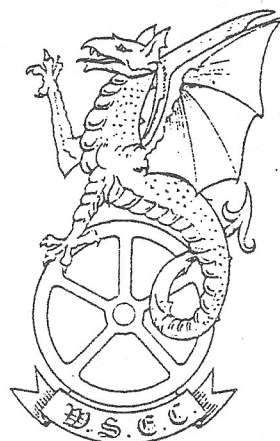


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

**JULY 2004**

*The Editor : Brian Baker  
27 Wickham Way  
SHEPTON MALLET  
Somerset BA4 5YG  
Tel: 01749 342671*

## **NEWSLETTER**



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

I have been very pleased in recent months with articles for the newsletter coming from new sources, but I still need a constant supply of material to ensure the continuity of the newsletter. With the rally season in full swing I am not getting any rally reports from around the region, surely some of you must own a pen? So come on, make an effort and report on some of the events you attend. Also I need details of any members celebrating birthdays, anniversary's etc.

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

Once again the monthly meeting at the Old Down Inn on June 28<sup>th</sup> saw a large number of members turn up for Derek Hunt's talk and slide show on the Dorset and Somerset Canal. This proved to be a brilliant evenings entertainment as it centred around this area with a lot of local interest. These meetings certainly attract a lot of members who are lucky enough to live near enough to attend. We shall soon be compiling next years programme of events and meetings, so if any member knows anyone who could give a talk or slide show on any subject under the sun please let me have the details. also if you know of any place of interest that would warrant a visit by members please contact me.

### **HORTICULTURAL HINTS**

I really like spending time on my allotment, enjoying the fresh air and peaceful atmosphere whenever possible. Unfortunately, as our lady members will no doubt agree, men cannot do any task without the help of an engine or motor, with all it's noise and pollution, which spoils it sometimes. Recently when weeding my strawberry bed, I could hear the birds singing, and I thought what a long day they have, up at dawn and still singing as the light begins to fade. Perhaps they would like some entertainment! When I visited the supermarket I collected several of those free CD's by the checkout, and I have hung them on sticks around my strawberry bed, so now my birds are on the internet, which I understand can fill many an hour. Thinking of soft fruit brings to mind an amusing tale. The Horticultural Society members had been listening to a long talk by a fruit growing expert on the treatment and cure of big bud in blackcurrants, and how they should be grubbed out and burnt if the decay struck. It was question time and an elderly member stood up, I've been growing blackcurrants for thirty years, and for thirty years I have had big bud, all one needs to do is to pick 'em out and give 'em plenty of dung. I've won many prizes with my blackcurrants, and to prove his point he brought a bowl of fruit from under his seat, which looked more like cherries due to the size of the fruit. He sat down to a rather embarrassed silence. What the expert could not have known was this gent kept pigs, and the slurry trenches from the sties ran down either side of his row of blackcurrant bushes, and into this he swept the sties clean each day. That was the "cure all", delicately called Dung.

Lotte Gardener. (Alias Margaret Simmons).



\*\*\*\*\* CLUB SHOP \*\*\*\*\*

We will be open all day on the Saturday of the club rally at Clutton. On August 14<sup>th</sup>. If you want to order POLO SHIRTS to collect on the day let Diana know ASAP. We are still waiting for calls for mail order polo shirts at £8.00 each plus £1 post and packing. Help keep our Junior Reporter J.P. happy and have your exhibit sheets filled out ready for our rally weekend. Three types now available in the club shop. For details on any club shop items ring Diana on 01373 464982.

\*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\*

All types of entries still wanted for Holcombe CLIC Crank-up on September 5<sup>th</sup> for our Club Fund Raising Event. There will be lots more room than we had at Brian Fears Garage that this event is replacing, so any vehicle, tractor, motorcycle, car, commercial etc will be made most welcome. We also require car boot stalls. The usual raffle will be held, any prizes donated will be gratefully received. Don't forget this event is to raise money for a very worthwhile charity. For stationary engine enquiries ring Tony or Diana on 01373 464982. For other vehicles ring Dave on 01761 239221.

\*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\*

Wanted a willing workforce to help set up the rally field at Clutton on Monday Evening August 9<sup>th</sup> at approx 6-30pm. This usually takes two or three evenings, all help would be appreciated as many hands make light work. We also require a workforce on the following Monday to dismantle it all and take it to the farm where we store it all. This has been done in the past on the Sunday when the rally finishes but this has usually been left for just a few to cope with which is just not on.

\*\*\*\*\* ALL ABOUT PEOPLE \*\*\*\*\*

Bill Appleby has now left hospital and is at home but he is still rather poorly, Bill we all send you our best wishes and hope to see you out and about again soon. Cecil Gibley is still in hospital recovering from his hip operation and is not making the rapid recovery hoped for. Ray Baker celebrated his birthday on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and I can reliably report he will never be 79 again. The WSEC would like to welcome as a new member to the club Mr A.J. White from Southampton, we hope your membership will be a long and happy one.

\*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\*

WANTED Caravan storage space for one or possibly two touring caravans preferably in the Bath area. A reasonable rent will be paid for all year round storage. If any member has, or knows anyone who has, premises that fits the bill would they give Mike Adlam a ring on 01225 448 929.

||||| DAYS LONG GONE |||||

*Hey you there. Would you like a seat, and listen to the engine beat?  
Come smell the scent of oils and fuels, look there at those old fashioned tools.  
And as you peer down through the haze, take your mind back to former days.*

*The pistons thump and cog wheels clatter, is that big end knock or valve gear chatter?  
My mind goes back to farm and shed, when I took off the Barnfords head.  
Those days were long, and pay was low, my engines worked, I made 'em go.*

*The old man sits there thinking long, of engines past, and work-mates now gone.  
When he was young and learnt his trade, as apprentice, and or the tools he'd made.  
So take a seat and hear his tale, his engines worked and did not fail.*

ANON.



## TWO RALLYS AND A HOLIDAY

For some time Jackie and myself plus Bill and Marg were toying with the idea of attending the Tatworth mini rally near Chard and then moving on to the coast to attend the Bridport Rally the following weekend and after a phone call to Tatworth organiser Mo Dukes it all came to fruition, "come on down to Tatworth on Saturday" said Mo "then move out on Monday morning and head south". This is exactly what we did, this was only my third visit to Tatworth although it was their 24<sup>th</sup> event and I have thoroughly enjoyed all three.

The rally takes place on the village playing fields, a more tranquil site would be hard to find with its beautiful views of the surrounding hillsides. At a guess there was well over 100 stationary engines here all neatly set out in rows, tractors, lorries, cars and motor bikes all spread around this large field. One eye catching exhibit that caused a lot of interest was a Canadian Sylvester engine mounted on a small trolley that would have ran up and down a railway line carrying men and tools that would do the line maintenance, a drive belt from the flywheel pulley disappeared through the floor of the trolley to drive its axle and apparently the engine would run in either direction.

Eddie Hardiman had his recently made 4 inch scale Foster Traction engine chugging around the field and a clown entertained the children while riding a mini motor cycle that was towing a trailer. I am told that underneath the make-up was Gerard Boelens from Holland, a well known figure on the rally field for many years when he used to show a vintage tractor. Lots of tented vintage bygones formed a long line on the field perimeter showing items that we all once used and wished we had not thrown away and at the fields lower end a car boot was selling all these discarded bygones so that we could buy them back again !! This was a most enjoyable weekend thanks to Mo and all his helpers. He told me that he was thinking of retiring next year after the Rally's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, if he does I hope someone will follow in his footsteps as this is much too nice a rally to loose.

Monday came all too fast and soon we were heading to the south coast. Burton Bradstock was to be our temporary home for the next few days. On one of our days out from here we went to Colyton to have a ride on the Seaton Tramway, this is an excellent trip to Seaton which is three to four miles away and part of the route follows the River Axe which is full of wild life. For travellers that are vintage like their exhibits they can travel at a concessionary rate. The village of Colyton is well worth walking around as it has an old tool shop, antique and book shops, and nice old pubs that will feed you at lunch time. From the tram station there is even a horse and cart that will take you the half mile into the village and back.

As our few days holiday slipped by it was time to move just three miles down the road to the Bridport Rally site. The site is actually at West Bay and only a five minute walk to the harbour. The event is organised by the West Dorset Vintage Tractor & Stationary Engine Club and this year was their 28<sup>th</sup> rally. This event was well supported by Wessex members, some sixteen in all who brought along a nice selection of engines including models by Ruston Hornsby, Amanco, Crosseley, Lister, Wolseley, Cooper, and Fairbanks most of which were driving a range of equipment including water pumps, mills and pillar drills, also two club members exhibited in the motor cycle section with bikes made by BSA and AJS. On Saturday a large auction took place with several hundred lots including a few vintage cars and amongst them was a BMW Isetta Bubble car which had a reserve on it of £6000, I had to look twice at the price as did many others who made the comments 'you will need deep pockets to buy this one' Quite a few stationary engines were in the sale line one of which was a large open crank Blackstone of about 10 hp, a twin cylinder Britt engine that was made locally at Bridport, a 3.5hp enclosed Crosseley, twin cylinder Lister diesel, several Lister 'D's and Petter A's and a nice Bamford corn mill. There was also three nice tidy trailers, that would have been just right for moving stationary engines, an ANZANI iron horse plough, several compressors and hundreds of boxes of bits and pieces. I was told after the sale that the Blackstone bidding went up to £2900, but had a reserve of £3400, so I guess that it did not sell.

All the usual exhibits were here, motor bikes, cars commercial, army recovery vehicles, lots of displays and a stall section that reached the length of the field. Entertainment was laid on in the evenings.

This event is always well supported by the visiting public, probably because of its location which was nice for the exhibitors to have an ever continuous flow of people viewing the engines, Sunday tea time came, time to pack up, holiday and two rallies over. It's back to the real world now but what a great time we had during our nine days away. **ROBIN**



**\*\*\*\*\* DATES FOR YOUR DIARY \*\*\*\*\***

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST. THE MOST IMPORTANT DATE IN THE CALANDER. THE WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB RALLY AT CLUTTON. SATURDAY EVENING BARBEQUE WITH HOT DOGS AND BURGHERS AT A VERY REASONABLE COST. A BARREL OF BEER AND A BARREL OF CIDER FOR FREE DRINKS. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TURN UP, IT WILL BE BRILLIANT. ALSO WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR USUAL GIGANTIC RAFFLE, PRIZES DONATED WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED. AS A DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS THE AUCTION THIS YEAR WILL BE ON THE SUNDAY MORNING STARTING AT 11am. BRING ALONG YOUR GOODS FOR LOTTING UP FROM 9am ONWARDS. ALL GOODS SOLD WILL BE PAID OUT ON THE DAY, NO WAITING FOR CHEQUES TO ARRIVE. 10% COMMISSION WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE SALE PRICE FOR CLUB FUNDS.**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST** South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Club Annual YESTERDAYS FARMING Rally at Manor Farm Puckington Ilminster. For details ring 01823 490619

**MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST** Club Night at the Old Down Inn. Autopsy and chat about the rally, followed by a table top auction, followed if time permits a film show with the epidiascope. Bring plenty of lots for the auction and you will be paid out in cash on the night, it's a chance to turn your junk into hard cash.

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** Crank up at Holcombe Playing Field. Any type of vehicle welcome. Also car boot sale stalls wanted. Another chance to turn your unwanted goods (junk) into cash. For details ring Tony on 01373 464982.

**THE BRISTOL & SOUTH GLOUCESTER STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB RALLY  
SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT FROG LANE FARM COALPIT HEATH, NR BRISTOL**

This new venue was a change of site from what many of us knew as the Wick Rally, and this year was held on Annette and Steve Thornell's farm at Frog Lane. The new site was easy to find off the A432 as two vintage tractors along with two stewards were strategically placed on two large grass verges where exhibitors and public needed to turn into the lane that lead to the rally site.

Having been shown where to set up in the engine line it was nice to know that my neighbours on either side of me were Wessex members, on one side was Rodney Harris exhibiting his Lister 'D' driving a corn mill and on my other side was Kim Siddorn showing his Coventry Victor along with some test equipment that was used on a English Electric P1.Lightning Interceptor Fighter Aircraft. Talking to Kim it brought back memories to me as when a air cadet in the 1950's I could recall these jets taking off with a thundering roar and crackle that would make the ground tremble and the bright glow of their two after burning engines was pure excitement for a young lad.

The stationary engine line here was very well supported with what must have been over 60 engines and where it turned a corner in the field Brian Read had set up his 7hp Victoria, which was driving a water pump that powered his unique church organ bellows pumping machine. Across the field were approximately 30 vintage cars, several commercials, a few military vehicles, and a lot of tractors that disappeared in the morning as they went on an organised run. A nice selection of car boots and vintage stalls with lots of the bits we are always looking for.

Jackie & I had a nice relaxing day out here chatting to friends we don't see too often. At 4pm the usual raffle took place and folk began to pack up and make their way home. On leaving the site the club Chairman Roy Wintle thanked the exhibitors for their support.

Robin