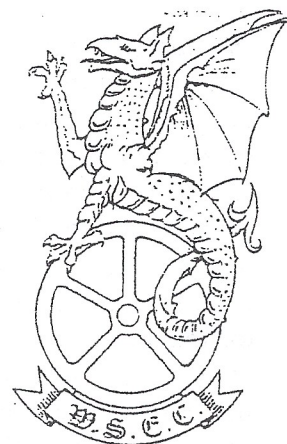


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

JULY 2005

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NEWSLETTER



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******* EDITORIAL *******

As you can see from the long list of events for August and September the club has a very busy two months ahead with rallies, crank-up's and visits. This comprehensive list represents quite a lot of work for the committee, especially our hard working secretary Arthur. I hope this hard work is justified by a good response from the members in supporting these events and attending as many as they can

******* CHAIRMANS REPORT *******

The club night on June 27th at the Old Down Inn saw quite a good crowd of members as usual attend the "members evening" where members were invited to bring along photographs to be shown on the clubs epidiascope. Quite a few brought along photo's of various times and themes. Brian Munt was judged to have brought the most interesting ones along, some of them were Wessex events when William Rogers was just a baby in Christine's arms, a real "blast from the past", there was even one of Don Rogers without his beard, doesn't seem possible. Brian received a bottle of wine for the winning snaps. Thanks to Tony Davis for operating the equipment all evening. This was followed by the usual raffle for club funds. We have a very exciting programme for the next two months so I hope to see you all at these events. We were visited on this occasion by two guests from Australia, I don't know what they thought of an Englishman's idea of an evenings entertainment. Also it was good to welcome new members to our club. New members continue to join the club steadily as the year goes on, and currently stands at 350.

******* WANTED ***** WANTED ***** WANTED *******

A workforce is wanted on Monday 8th August at the Clutton Rally Site to set up the rally field for the following weekend. If anyone can help putting in the stakes and roping off the various areas please turn up at the rally field anytime after 6pm. The club has now purchased a box trailer that all the rally kit will be stored in, this means we only have to tow it onto the rally field instead of making numerous trips with cars and trailers. Also we require a workforce on the Monday night August 15th to dismantle the rally kit and return it to the box trailer and clean up the field. If you can help on either of these occasions please turn up and give a hand. Last year the response to my request was brilliant, we had the rally all set up on just one night, something we had never achieved before.

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER. ENGINES WANTED. Or tractors, cars commercials, displays etc at The Western Heavy Horse Society show at Turnpike Showfield between Gillingham and Shaftesbury. Ring Mike Horler on 01761 470694 for an entry form.

ASTLE PARK RALLY 25th & 26th June

We decided to make an early morning start on Friday morning for what is a long trip for us to the rally site, just south of Manchester. Leaving Frome at 6 a.m. we would hopefully miss the morning rush around Bristol and meet up with Carol, Kevin and Phil at a services near Birmingham. As we left home we could see the thunder clouds looming up from the west and had no idea what devastation was to happen in the region that we had left behind us. The driving rain just caught us up north of Bristol and continued all the way until 20 miles from the rally field, which was in perfect shape having missed the south deluge.

I missed this event last year so was really looking forward to this year's event, I was not to be disappointed, the Stationary Engine entries exceeding 500 complemented by commercial cars, motor cycles military vehicles and a dozen Steam Engines, this show seems to grow from strength to strength, there were some real eye catching engines here just to mention a few stunners, A 1908 Reid 8 hp hot bulb, run on gas, this engine used to drive an oil well pump in Ohio. A 1912 Schmidt vertical open crank, a 1898 Robinson Hot Air engine of 1/8th hp which actually weighed 3cwt, what a heavy engine for such a low horse power, a lovely Wilton 4½hp vertical generating set complete with switch board dated around 1920, this engine was all in original condition just as it would have spent its working life and a nice British built 1924 Ruston & Hornsby single flywheel side shaft engine of approx 3hp that powered a built in compressor unit on the opposite side to its flywheel.

The stall section was once again huge holding all the bits and pieces that we are looking for and a large auction took place on the Saturday with hundreds of lots on offer.

The five counties Vintage Machinery Organisation which runs this event also had their club tent in operation and a large outside pen with hundreds of articles for sale with 10% of the selling price going to their club funds.

There were plenty of food outlets here including a large breakfast marquee which in the evening was turned into the entertainment and beer tent a small fairground was in situ for the younger generation and the field shop for newspapers and essential goods combined with model tent was always busy.

The usual Saturday Evening trip to the Anson Museum at Poynton took place with two coaches leaving the field at 6 pm and a lot of people also made their way in their own vehicles. I haven't been to this museum in the last four years. It now houses the largest collection of stationary engines in the UK and possibly in Europe, it has over 180 engines, most are gas or oil powered. Its curator Geoff Challinor along with his band of volunteers run as many engines as possible for visitors to view. Three large buildings house most of the engines many of which were manufactured in the Midlands and are all installed on concrete plinths behind a public viewing rail, all the exhausts pass through the building walls which give a very quiet atmosphere to the display as all you can hear is the mechanical clicking of levers, cams and valves with an occasional roar of a gas torch on the hot tube engines. This was a most enjoyable evening finished off back at the rally site for a bag of chips and a few yarns outside the beer tent. Around 20 Wessex members and juniors made this long journey to Astle Park and I am sure like me found this a most enjoyable weekend.

ROBIN

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

FOR SALE 4hp Converter, never been used. Will convert 240 volts, single phase to drive three phase motors up to 4hp. £100. 3 phase grindstone with green wheels for sharpening engineering tools. £50. for further details ring Robin on 01749 840413 (Gurney Slade).

FOR SALE 2 pairs of caravan curtains, 1 pair 1 ½ yds long by 1 yard 10 inches wide. 1 pair 1 ½ yds long by 30 inches wide. Green and lemon. £10. Bradcot Patio Awning Curtains. Red and Grey £10. Ring 01373 466782.

WANTED Spare Wheel for generator trailer, very old style (1930s) 600x20. 5 studs at 3 ½ centres. Ring Robin on 01373 463526. (Frome).

WANTED WANTED – Goods for the Auction on the Sunday morning of the rally at Clutton. Sunday 14th August start at 11am on the rally field. This is a chance to convert your unwanted items into cash. Paid out on the day, with just 10% deducted for club funds. A bidding number scheme will be in operation so please make sure you are registered and have a number before the sale starts. Don't forget you could leave the rally a lot richer than when you arrived.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY 13th & 14th AUGUST. Wessex Stationary Engine Clubs Annual rally at Clutton. Lets have a good turn out for this important date in our calendar. Barbeque on the Saturday evening with FREE beer and cider. Also the usual grand raffle. Prizes would be appreciated. Auction on the Sunday morning, a chance to turn your unwanted goods into hard cash. For further details ring 01749342671

WEDNESDAY 17th AUGUST. Social Evening and Barbeque at Fred Biggs field and barn, just past the Court Hotel down the lane towards Clapton. (it will be signposted). A barbeque will be provided to cook your own food, a skittle alley will be in operation with prizes for the best scores, a raffle will be held, all in all a good evening's entertainment with the chance to have a natter without the hassle of looking after engines. This is a "Picnic in the Park" evening so bring along a bottle or two and enjoy yourselves. 6pm onwards. If anyone needs further information give me a ring on 01749 342671.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 20th & 21st AUGUST. YESTERDAYS FARMING. South Somerset Agriculture Preservation Clubs rally at Manor Farm Long Sutton. For details ring 07754 593545.

MONDAY AUGUST 22nd. Club night at the Old Down Inn. Rally Autopsy and Table Top Auction. A chance for members to have their say about the rally and also the chance to turn unwanted items into hard cash. So turn out your sheds and garages and get paid out on the night in hard cash. 10% deducted for club funds. The usual raffle will take place, prizes would be most welcome.

MONDAY AUGUST 29th (BANK HOLIDAY) ENGINES WANTED Village Fete at Camerton Village Hall and Playing Field. Engines and any other Displays welcome. Lets put on a good show for them as they are letting us have this venue for our crank-up free of charge.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd. VE Day (Victoria Engines) Open day at Derrick Hardwick's, Beech Grove, Manor Road, Rangeworthy, Gloucestershire. All Derrick's superb collection of engines will be on display and Derrick may require assistance from some of you to fire some of them up. A barbeque will be available for members who wish to bring and cook their own food, (bring a bottle as well). Members are welcome to bring Victoria Engines or Victoria related items only to comply with the VE theme. The WSEC has been invited to view Derrick's collection before and the welcome and the hospitality displayed by Derrick and his family is legendary. So turn up any time after 12 noon and experience it for yourself.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11th ENGINES WANTED WSEC CRANK UP AND CAR BOOT SALE at Camerton Village Hall. This is in aid of the Childrens Hospice South West, who have launched the Babes Big Appeal in order to raise money to build and equip a hospice for over 800 children in the South West region with life threatening or life limiting conditions. Please give your support on the day. This Crank-Up replaces the annual fund raising event that was held at Brian Fears Garage, Oakhill, which is no longer available to us due to change of ownership. A grand raffle will be held, and donated prizes for this very good cause would be appreciated. For further details ring Tony or Diana Davis on 01373 464982.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17th. Crank – Up at Wookey Farm Shop, Wookey, Nr Wells. The Farm Shop is open for the sale of a wide variety of local produce, including cider, fresh and frozen meats, vegetables etc, in fact you name it and they sell it. There is also a barbeque on site. This is the crank – up that has attracted members from as far afield as South Wales, come and find out for yourselves what a good event this is. It is put on by Wessex member Steve Baker, for further details give him a ring on 01749 679516.

***** **NEW MEMBERS** *****

The following names are new members who have recently joined the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Mr Edward Newman from Camberley, Surrey. Mr John Cluett from Shaftesbury, Dorset. Mr David Dowell from Ford, Salisbury. Mr T Holt from Blandford St Mary and Mr & Mrs Nigel Scorse from Athelney Nr Taunton. We welcome you to our club and hope your membership will be a long and happy one.

EAST CLIFF HALL --- BOURNEMOUTH

I am about to disclose to you Bournemouth's best kept secret. No it's not disreputable or illegal, its East Cliff Hall, the Russell Cotes art Gallery and Museum. If you walk up East Cliff from the pier for about two hundred yards there is an insignificant garden door behind which is a small garden and an amazing unique house. Sir Merton and Lady Annie Russell Cotes family owned the Royal Bath Hotel, and they lived there when they were not away on their many trips abroad. They were in their sixties when they decided to build East Cliff Hall, to be an historic family home for the Russell Cotes family and to act as a showcase for their growing collection of art and objects. Their family tree linked them with the Monarchs of England, Scotland and France, so the house built in Victorian times has many architectural styles and decorations reflecting these links. This makes it unique and very fascinating. The main hall provides a very dramatic entrance to the house, displaying Victorian animal paintings and a diverse collection of items collected on their travels abroad, which is true for many of the rooms. The Dining Room with it's Tudor influenced ceiling and Elizabethan styled inglenook fireplace give the look of a home that had existed for centuries. The Mikado Room, with its painted ceiling is devoted to displaying the collection from their 1885 trip to Japan. It was reported that they brought back over 100 cases filled with curios and some rare and antique specimens of Japanese art. The Irving Room is dedicated to the famous actor Sir Henry Irving and contains a display of items owned by him. It includes the skull he used in his productions of Hamlet. In 1919 the building of three picture galleries was completed and they were opened by Princess Beatrice, the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria. The first gallery is devoted to one of Sir Merton's favourite painters, Edwin Longden Long R.A. these are huge canvases with panoramic scenes of the ancient world. The other galleries now contain temporary exhibitions. A visit to the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum is a dramatic experience, the exuberance and variety of styles found within the building create a unique atmosphere that is a mixture of a private house and public museum. The diversity of the collected objects is amusing. Admission is free, open from Tuesday to Sunday. Website, www.russell-cotes.bournemouth.gov.uk.

MARGARET SIMMONS

BELOW IS A MAP TO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE EVENTS AT CAMERTON VILLAGE HALL.

