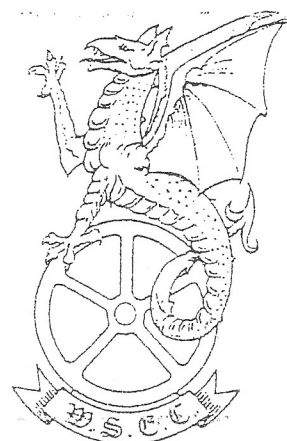


A stylized, high-contrast black and white illustration of a newspaper. The word 'WESSEX' is printed in a bold, sans-serif font at the top of the front page. Below the title, there are several rectangular blocks representing text columns and a large, multi-lined graphic element that resembles a stylized 'E' or a series of horizontal bars. The newspaper is shown at an angle, with its pages slightly overlapping, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The entire illustration is composed of thick black outlines and solid black areas, with no gray tones.

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



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It's that time of the year again, the Wessex Rally at Clutton. I would like to appeal as usual for a workforce to set up the rally on Monday the 7th August, starting at around 6pm. If the response is as good as last year it won't take long to set it up ready for the weekend. Also this year we are going to try and get all the kit back in the trailer on the Sunday afternoon, this will save us having another trip to Clutton on the Monday night as we did last year, also we will still have tractors on the field to transport the trailer back to the farm yard. So help the committee, turn up and give us your support.

The club night at the Old Down Inn on June 26th saw a good crowd assembled to be entertained by Mrs Doreen Willis who gave us a talk and slide show on the Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary. I can only describe Doreen's presentation as brilliant, she spoke without notes or hesitation for about an hour and a half, interposed with stunning slides of the donkeys in beautiful settings of the Devonshire countryside. She was obviously passionate about her interest in the sanctuary and the work it does. I was really surprised when she told us that the sanctuary looks after several hundred donkeys, some of which come from various countries abroad. Doreen's talk was followed by the usual raffle, and all in all it was a very good evening's entertainment. The committee have now received several suggestions to celebrate the club's 30th birthday and at present are considering them, one suggestion involves a novel unusual gift that would not involve a large cost of sending one to each member. You will have to watch this space. Don't forget it will soon be our annual rally at Clutton, if you have not entered an engine yet, now is the time to do it, remember this rally is put on by the committee for you the members, if you don't use it, you may lose it.

Frances Armstrong is at home recovering after a spell in hospital for surgery, the club would like to wish you a speedy recovery Frances and we hope to see you at our events and meetings as soon as possible, in the meantime our thoughts and best wishes are with you.

Roy Cox has had a very bad year for illness, I don't think he can drive at the moment. We all wish you well Roy and we hope your health improves in the future.

Committee member Diane Davis has a birthday on the 22nd of July. Many happy returns of the day Diane. I don't know how old Diane is, only that she is definitely over 21.

Another birthday on the 20th July is Roy Chapman from Horningsham. Roy has something to celebrate, he has now reached 70. Many happy returns Roy.

The club would like to welcome new member Mr A.J. Spear from Clutton, we hope your membership will be a long and happy one. This name seems familiar, we think Mr Spear was one of the founder members of the club all those years ago. Perhaps he will enlighten me?

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd.

is

Thirty Years Old in September.

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. was formed in **September 1976** by a group of enthusiasts of early gas and oil engines. Most of these people had previously met up during the early 1970's annually in August at the local Camerton Steam Rally near Bath, Somerset. The nearest preservation club at that time, was some twenty miles away, was not very well organised and it was felt that stationary engine enthusiasts were not being catered for as the exhibits deserved.

During the Camerton Rally in **August 1976**, the suggestion was made to form the local engine enthusiasts into a new Club purely to cater only for stationary engine enthusiasts so an inaugural meeting to gauge further interest was set up in Mary and Dave Chapman's house at Midsomer Norton the following month, **September 1976**, and the venue publicised in the local press. To everyone's great delight, some twentyfive people turned up on the night, even including the then editor of the Stationary Engine Magazine which was still in its early years. The aims of the club were discussed, set out, and a committee quickly formed that same evening. It was agreed to always run on formal lines with a full committee and a clear constitution; this has continued successfully up to the present day. The aims were simple; to promote the study of early engines and encourage the interchange of skills and experience necessary for their restoration and display. This first committee consisted of Eric Brain (*Chairman*), Mary Chapman (*Gen Secretary*), Ann Brain (*Treasurer*), David Farenden (*Vice Chairman*), Ailene Conibeare, Phil Lane, John Spear, Adrian Stride and Ben Whittock. Other non-committee members but keen helpers at the time of the inaugural meeting, were Bill and Marg Appleby, Ken Appleby, Michael Cannon, Gordon Chapman, Dave Chapman, Herb Gane, Vi Whittock, Phil Wookey, Tom Randall, Ted Ashman and of course Stuart Ashman who was co-opted onto the committee in early 1977. He later became Treasurer. Ailene became Secretary when, in February 1977, Mary started the Newsletter and became Engine Registrar. The attractive Club logo was designed for the Club during 1977 by an expert in heraldry; it consists of a five spoke flywheel (each spoke representing the five original counties of Wessex) with the Wyvern of Wessex intertwined.

The first General Meeting was arranged in the Queen's Arms, a public house in Chew Magna, in November 1976; this was a slide show of engines at rallies. It caused some embarrassment because so many people arrived that there was hardly room for the projector and screen, even less for the regular customers! Therefore in January 1977, it was decided to seek a larger, permanent meeting place and the Old Down Inn at Emborough was selected as it had a large room, was at a junction of two major routes and, more importantly, right in the middle of the area. Committee members, John Spear and Phil Lane were detailed by the committee to make an initial approach to the Old Down Inn, which proved successful. The landlord was enthusiastic from the start and has always encouraged the Club with his hospitality. The second General Meeting and the first meeting at the Old Down was in March 1977, an illustrated talk on Petter Ltd by David Edgington. In its first year the Club ran a small informal rally at **Easter 1977**, at Kilmersdon, Somerset, just for Club members; at that time already around sixty. Later on in that year, the WSEC was welcomed at the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore and held a two-day event in its car parking field.

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. takes pride in having been one of the first stationary engine clubs to offer a Third Party Liability Insurance as part of its membership package almost from the outset. About twelve years ago, the Club was one of the first to become a Company Limited by Guarantee (Reg. No. 1993997) to protect itself and its membership: in effect each member holding a share in the company with the elected committee as directors. Having been always run along formal lines, this was not a difficult transition for WSEC and most similar clubs have since followed suit. It was almost certainly the first engine Club in the U.K. to have a maintained site on the Internet.

The Club has strong links with the Stationary Engine Magazine in appreciation of the early association during their joint formulative years, with a strong proportion of the more erudite members being regular contributors in that excellent publication. The Club issues a regular monthly Newsletter, a service which has been provided continuously since the very beginning, by which it assists members with news of forthcoming events, rally reports, sales, wants etc.

Through the years, although people join and disappear for reasons of their own, the Club has

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maintained a steady membership of around three hundred and it is significant that many of those at the original meeting in 1976 are still club members, some even still have the same engines they had at that time!. The Club holds its own Annual Rally in the middle of the summer. The venue for the rally has been changed frequently which gives a better chance for all the widespread members to attend. Over past years, venues as far afield as Cheddar, Semington, Longleat, Yatton, Lackham and East Cranmore have been selected. It was held for the first time at Clutton, Somerset in 2003. The rallying experience of early members resulted in a selection chosen from them to form the committee of the two legendary 'Great Gatherings of Stationary Engines at Longleat' in 1979, and again in 1981, both sponsored by Stationary Engine Magazine. Visitors came from all over the world, from South Africa, USA and Canada whilst one engine even came from Australia

The Club also holds a popular annual small event known as the 'Crank-Up' at Nunney Catch, near Frome, a crank-up at Camerton in aid of the Babe Appeal, in September. also a Sunday Crank-Up in early December, whilst a more recent addition to the calendar is the 'Mince Pie Crank-Up' normally on the day following Boxing Day.. During any typical summer weekend Wessex members can be found rallying a huge variety of early examples of petrol, gas, or oil engines at rallies all over the South West, or even regularly as far afield as Astle Park in Cheshire, St Agnes in Cornwall, and on separate occasions, at Inverness and Alness in Scotland.

Visitors, especially enthusiasts holidaying in the delightful Bath and Wells or Mendip area, are welcome to any monthly meeting at the Old Down Inn, Emborough, at about 8-00pm on the last Monday of every month (except when it falls on a Bank Holiday when it is changed to the previous Monday!). There are guest speakers most months on a varied range of topics. The Annual General Meeting is in February because after the first year it was found that an annual subscription could be handled better from January 1st rather than the month in which the member had joined individually each year so a February AGM was more convenient to this aim than the hectic time before Christmas.

The Old Down Inn is easy to find; it is an historic staging Inn from the days of the horse-drawn mail-coaches and thus is conveniently situated at the junction where the B3139 Bath to Wells road crosses the A37 Bristol to Shepton Mallet road.

Full details and application forms for the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. can be obtained by post enclosing a SAE from the Secretary, Mr Arthur E. Smith, Coombe Castle, Heytesbury, Warminster, Wilts. BA12 0EA Tel 01985-840385 or by email: arthur.s@virgin.net

E.G.Brain.

(Modified from webpages, formerly by the Author, May 2006)

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

FOR SALE Petter 5hp 1926. Junior Safety Oil Engine. As found, in full running order. £350-00 or part exchange for Bamford size "O" corn mill or W.H.Y. 230-240 v workshop compressor with storage tank. 160 psi. Very good condition. £80 ono. PX why?. Small motor driven compressor, (power model steam engines etc) £10. For further details ring Eric on 01225 754374. Trowbridge area.

FOR SALE AT THE ANNUAL RALLY AT CLUTTON. Collection of barn machinery comprising of – Lister D engine on trolley – driving a Hawkes of Taunton cake crusher (on wheels). A Bentall roller mill on wheels. Lister corn kibbler, on stand, all driven by 6' of shafting with fast and loose pulleys, driving 4 pulleys. Also a small Bath stone grind stone, on stand. Other interesting items to include – 20 enamel signs, quantity of 2 ¼ cwt new sacks, hand operated paint grinder, hand operated wallpaper trimmer, finger mower blade grinder, these could be easily converted to pulley drive. Victorian house mangle. Seed drill.hay grab and more various collectors items. **All for sale at the Clutton rally.**

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

We are having a working area at the rally for engines that are driving machinery. If you have an engine that fits that request please contact the engine steward on 01225 754374.

Also if any member would like to operate an Amanco driving a mill during the rally, give Eric a ring on 01225 754374 and he will bring it along for you. He will be to busy during the rally to run it himself.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY – SUNDAY 12th/13th August. Wessex Stationary Engine Club's Annual Rally at Clutton. In conjunction with Clutton Flower Show. All the usual attractions. Barbeque on Saturday evening with free beer and cider. The usual super raffle. Prizes for the raffle would be greatly appreciated. On Sunday at 11am we have the Auction. (see separate advert). Come along, support your club and have a fantastic weekend in the glorious Somerset Countryside.

SATURDAY – SUNDAY 12th/13th August. Yeovil Festival of Transport. Yeovil. Tel 01935 422319.

SATURDAY- SUNDAY 12th/13th August. Fergie Vintage Harvest Happening. New Valance, Alton Hants. Tel 01428 724068.

SATURDAY- SUNDAY 19th/20th August. Yesterdays Farming Show. North Curry, Taunton. Tel 01278 429757.

MONDAY 21st August Club Night at the Old Down Inn. A Rally Forum, your chance to have a chat about the rally, followed by a table top Auction. Bring along anything you wish to sell and we will convert it into hard cash. Please note the early date of this meeting due to the bank holiday the following weekend.

SATURDAY 2nd September. A Barbeque and Social Event at Fred Biggs field. (next to the Court Hotel Chilcompton) an afternoon and evening event, a barbeque will be lit where you can bring and cook your own food, steaks, burgers, sausages etc. various forms of entertainment will be going on including skittles etc. A raffle will be held, prizes will be welcome. The event last year, which was evening only was an outstanding success, so turn up and have a really good time and enjoy Fred's wonderful hospitality.

SUNDAY 3rd September. Crank-Up at Camerton Village Hall, Camerton. See separate advert.

SATURDAY 16th September. Crank-Up at Summerleaze Farm Shop, Wookey, Nr Wells. This is a splendid event put on by Wessex member Steve Baker. The well stocked Farm Shop will be open. Food will be available. A raffle will take place. This is the event that attracted members from Wales to attend. Tractors, cars, Commercials etc will be welcome. For further details ring 01749 679515.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< AUCTION >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

The club will be holding the usual Auction on Sunday 13th August on the rally field at Clutton. Lotting up of the goods will start at 9am. The sale will start at 11am. You need to get a bidders number from the auction office to bid for any item. Anything except livestock will be accepted for sale. The club will deduct 10% from the sale price for club funds. No lotting up fee, no buyers premium. This is a good opportunity to turn your unwanted goods into hard cash. We pay out the same day, where possible in cash. Same auctioneer as last year, the Chairman.

<<<<<<<<<<< CLUB CHARITY EVENT >>>>>>>>>>>>

CAMERTON ENGINE CRANK-UP AND CAR BOOT SALE on September 3rd at Camerton Village Hall, off the B3115. In aid of "Babes Big Appeal" fund raising for the Childrens Hospice Southwest. For information ring Tony on 01373 464982.

***** LATE NEWS FLASH *****

I have just received the sad news that long serving member of our club Tony Taylor of Glastonbury is in hospital seriously ill and our thoughts will be with Tony, his wife and family at this very worrying time. Tony used to attend the Wessex rallies with an immaculate large Blackstone engine, and I still have a Lister L that I bought from Tony when I first joined the Wessex Club