

# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1985

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### CASTLE COOMBE RALLY

This rally was put on this year by a small group of people calling themselves 'The Castle Coombe Rally Club'. As this was their first attempt at organising a rally, I feel that they should be commended for their efforts.

We arrived on the field to be met by Ron Hurkett who welcomed us and gave us our space with plenty of room which was rather different to previous years. The WSEC was well represented by Rob Lambert, Tom Randall, Roy Cox, Len Fry, Dave Large, Brian Munt, Phil Harris and ourselves, to name but a few - there were also many more Club members. There were 94 stationary engines booked in; 6 steamers including the Showman's engine and 4 organs. Of course, no rally is complete without the presence of Gerry Wynne and his Tangye!

The tractor section had a good turn out and there were plenty of cars and motorcycles on show.

Considering the chilly weather, the arena events held the attention of quite a few people around the ring.

On behalf of the WSEC I would like to extend thanks to those members who made our weekend a good one and wish them luck in the future.

Dot Watts

### WATER AID

Following our Club visit to the Pumping Station of the Yeo Reservoir, we sent a donation to the Bristol Waterwork's favourite benevolent fund as thanks for such a pleasant evening. Subsequently we have heard back from Eric Grimes, the visit organiser for BWW who tells us that our donation has gone to 'Water Aid' - a charity to raise funds for water for the Third World.

Their Cashier, Charles Cash!!!! has confirmed this transaction.

### OVERHEARD IN THE LADIES' LOO

'What are those noisy iron things down at the end of the field? Is it what the programme calls Station Engines? I'm not trudging all down there, I'd sooner have a cup of tea.....'.

### AT THE BRISTOL DOCKS RALLY.....

The sight of Audrey Harris smiling happily to herself as she did her wifely duty polishing the vertical copper exhaust pipe of Phil's Crossley so rhythmically caused certain Club members to stop and watch in awe, tinged with a certain envy! When commended on her 'action' she admitted that it was the best shine she had got on anything all day.

Now where did I read that Phil needed a new 'Big-end'.....?

### WOODFORD RALLY - Monday May 6th

As members of a hand bell ringing team, myself, daughter Susan and my son David were booked to appear at the Woodford Spring Fair, near Salisbury.

Off we went on what proved to be a very hot Bank Holiday Monday; lo and behold, as we arrived we detected that never to be forgotten sound of small engines putt-putting away. Along the edge of the field was a nice collection of engines - about a dozen altogether. Several Listers, a Crossley, the Chicken-Plucking Stuart and several generating engines had brought their owners out to enjoy this small country show.

There was plenty to see, lots of stalls as well as Punch & Judy, The Wilton Youth Band, Helicopter

rides and - of course - Handbell Ringers!

We were happy to see so many people interested in our handbells; several people tried to ring for themselves after we had given our display.

'He' was working - once again - but I am sure he would have enjoyed himself as we saw several familiar 'rally faces' and we arrived home after a very enjoyable day which wetted our appetite for our own rally season - especially if its fine and sunny.....!

Marion Wilson

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TILSHEAD VILLAGE MAY FAIR

The WSEC was represented by Gerald Hoddinott, Dave Ball, Rob Lambert and Alan Chant who all arrived in this sleepy village of Tilshead at the same moment. We found the playing fields where the fair was to take place, got parked up and got our engines in shipshape and running order. Alan was in charge of the Amanco Hired Man, it ran for a while and decided 'enough's enough'; the next two hours were fruitlessly spent trying to get it to restart. Robin and Bill's Ruston Hornsby 8 hp was running quite merrily as were Dave's Petter M and Gerald's Lister A.

About 1.30 everyone started to come alive, a few stalls were hurriedly put up and skittles and darts were quickly put ready with some other games. The Maypole having been also set in working order by 2 o'clock the public started to drift in. The Amanco was still refusing to go (it's Bill Appleby's engine actually but he was not there - I bet his ears were burning!!), the field was filling up and about a dozen young ladies (I mean VERY young, not what all you men readers were thinking...!) paraded for the judging of the May Queen.. Still the Hired Man on strike, so I suggested we summon up the help of the vicar who had arrived to crown the May Queen; the air was a wrong shade of BLUE for vicars at the time so I just removed the lump hammer out of sight as this could well have been the next step.

Just now the Ruston decided to strike in sympathy so the team altered their attention to that, with Alan swinging the flywheels - he must have had muscles like Garth by the time he got home that day! Eventually it was diagnosed that there was dirt in the carburettor and the exhaust valve was stuck open. Bill should have been here with us not stuck on some beach at Torquay - and to think that they had the nerve to put Dave downwind on the end with his Petter 'so as not to get us all sprayed with oil'.

This was an enjoyable little afternoon event and the sun shone lovely during the afternoon just in time to watch the races; I hope they raised a nice lot of money for their funds.

Jackie Lambert

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THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING - The Wessex Crank-Up

The May meeting was held a week early because of the Bank Holiday, however, this did not stop the weather behaving in a true Bank Holiday manner - it rained - HARD! We arrived to find the car park almost deserted - the only engine running being 'Stirling's' Frozen Foods' van powered by a 'Thermo King' refrigeration unit! (Was it the Petter engined model or the Briggs & Stratton...? Ed)

Further investigation found most Club members managing to console themselves inside the pub. After coke and crisps all round, the meeting was ably salvaged by our Chairman, Robin Lambert, who gave a very interesting talk illustrated with slides about the Steam Lorries of W & V. Every & Co. Every's were a large general haulage and quarry business who had about sixty lorries ranging from Foden steam lorries to petrol and diesel vehicles of the late forties. They were mainly used for timber, coal and stone haulage from their own quarries, their operating base being at Chantry, near Frome.

Unfortunately, in 1936 a law was passed prohibiting vehicles over 12 tonnes gross weight. As some of these lovely old Fodens weighed up to 11 tonnes unladen it was no longer profitable to run them with a load as small as one tonne. They were sold as scrap for as little as £11 per vehicle. In 1949 Every's were absorbed into British Road Services due to Nationalisation of the industry. Our thanks to Rob for letting us see these lovely slides taken from the personal photos of the Every family.

During the interval, yours truly gave up the chance of a second pint and sold raffle tickets; the winners of the draw being Mr & Mrs. Goddard who won the garden chair, Mrs Gay a bottle of Martini; and Jeremy Adams the bat & ball. Lets hope we soon get some summer for they all to enjoy them.

By this time the rained had ceased and we were able to venture outside to see the engines running -the first of which was the Presidential Bamford 4 hp. Jeremy Adams had his Petter running a Godwin O.H. water pump and Alan Sweet had his Stuart running a Stuart water pump. John Emery's Barker hybrid engine was softly chugging away and the dusk was brightened by Derek Watts' Stuart lighting plant. A new engine to the Club was Cecil Giblett's Hobbs 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  hp.

In all about a dozen engines were running making it a very successful evening and greatly enjoyed by all the family.

Herb Gane

(Herb - do you mean 'Tonnes' or 'tons' - Sub-Sub Ed.)



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LAVINGTON AND EASTERTON FOOTBALL CLUB SPRING FAYRE (held under Stourpaine Bushes conditions) May 26/27th

With the trailer packed and hitched to the van, we left Trowbridge at 9.30 a.m. with the sun shining and the birds singing, just the right conditions for an engine rally right through Earlstoke all the way to Market Lavington. In fact, as we approached the rally field, 'her indoors' said 'I think we've left your shorts at home!'. We arrived on site at 10.15 a.m. and the first job was to find a space for the engines; down in the bottom corner, just the job.

After unloading the trailer, I could not believe it! - the wet stuff just fell out of the sky, lightening, thunder, the lot. I sought refuge with S.E.Bastian in his van because, as they say, 'lightening never strikes twice in the same place! After about an hour, or two mugs of tea later, the rain stopped so we got the engine cranked up and left 'her indoors' to look after it while I had a look around.

There were quite a few exhibitors; I knew some by name but many more only by sight. Bill, the magneto man and Robin from Frome; Andy, Dave and Eric from Trowbridge; Dave and Gerald from Warminster; Mark and his Dad from Corsham; not forgetting John the Bowler Hat from Lavington. All in all there was a good variety of engines, sixty in all, Amancos, Blackstones, Listers, Petters, Wolseleys, Ruston Hornsbys, Kohlers, Villiers, engines of all shapes and sizes.

The Army were also there with a tank fitted with radar; they could tell you to within a minute or two when it was going to rain again - damm them! It was during another rainstorm that I thought I would try the 'Overheard in the Ladies Loo' bit but I got thrown out of there before I heard anything!

There were autojumble stalls, stalls selling wet books, wet tools, wet anything you liked. Pony rides with one of the ponies coming from the Shetlands and if you liked football, what could be funnier than football with all the players wearing raincoats.

Another really interesting exhibit was a WWI army waggon. John came around on Monday afternoon with the cast-brass plaques embossed with W.E.1902-1984. This was in memory of the late chairman of the Football Club, Mr. William Elisha. Thank you organisers, an excellent rally, well organised but spoilt by the bad weather; lets hope for better luck next year.

Bob Hallam

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MORE CLUB EVENTS

- July 29      A talk on re-whitemetalling of bearings. This fascinating aspect of restoration engineering will be explained by Mr.Gregg.
- August 19      This must be our earliest monthly meeting ever due to the Bank Holiday weekend being so early in the month. It will be in the form of a 'Members Night', a chance for you all to bring along your favourite engine slides and pictures to show. This will also be a good chance to see the Club's Epidiascope in action so if you have any engine pictures from magazines, books, etc. bring them along for show.
- September 30      Right at the end of the month this time! A talk by Mr.Oldiss entitled 'Things in people's attics' although I suspect not many people have engines in theirs. (I have though...! Ed.).
- October 28      A talk on collecting Dinky Toys (and all the multiplicity of other similar makes) by an as yet unnamed expert on the subject.  
**NOTE:** October 28th, not as was inadvertently misprinted in last month's Newsletter.
- November 25      A talk on the maintenance and use of chainsaws, just in time for the seasonal gathering of winter fuel....although what could be better is a nice Lister 5-1 diesel driving a sawbench....!
- December 14      Annual WSEC Dinner & Dance, this popular social event rounds off our 1985 calendar and, as far as we know, will be held once again at the Masonic Hall, Frome, Somerset. Full details in due course.

Please send you article for printing in this Newsletter as soon as possible following any monthly Club meeting to The Editor, Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol or telephone your adverts directly to (0761 52633).

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FOR SALE

**Fowler-Sanders** Diesel, 6 hp at 1000 rpm. Type IDM, tank cooled, No.M3314 and weighs about 3 cwt.

**Fast** and Loose pulleys in pairs, 10" dia. x 3" face.

Offers for the above to Mike Long, Tiverton 254146

**BSA Bantam**, 1960, 175cc in reasonable condition. £200 ono. Bill Combs Tel. Oakhill 840868.

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**Two Petter** A types, incomplete but useful for spares or make the two into one good engine, £15.

**Briggs & Stratton** cast-iron engine, only needs the cowling, £15.

Alan Sweet, 1 Arch Villas, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somt., Tel. Pilton 586.

**Very early** Bamford 2½ hp, Webster magneto, Class 1 plus. Sensible offers please which must be proportional to its age and supreme condition. M.Cannon, 19 Eagle Road, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, Somt., Tel. 859536 (24 hr. answering).

**Goulds** Pyramid water pump, would make a nice exhibit. £50; Red Massey Ferguson Tractor, good runner. £500; Pair of Austin Seven wheels with tyres. £20; Richmond & Chandler chaff cutter with automatic feed, very heavy about one ton. £100; Small air compressor with 1 hp electric motor but no storage tank. £10; Spoked wheeled handcart. £75; Blacksmith's rotary blower of USA manufacture. £10; Contact Mr. Dennis Gilmore, Frome 62682.

**Blacksmith's** Bench drill with cast-iron frame and 30" dia overhead handwheel, £10; cast-iron pulleys, many sizes from 5" to 18" dia £2 to £5 each. BOOKS\*- 'Hornsby of Grantham' 1815-1918 by Michael Pointer £1.20, and 'Ruston Hornsby Grantham 1918-1963' also by Michael Pointer, £2.10. Tom Randall, Midsomer Norton (0761)418926.

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Luckington** Carnival Club hold their Summer Fete and Fair at Coleford Football Club field, Coleford, near Bath (well, nearer Frome actually!) on Saturday, July 13th. Engine exhibits will be most welcome, just turn up on the day.

**The Full Quart** Crank-Up will be held this year on September 29th at Hewish near Weston-super-Mare, Contact Roy Cox, 4 Laurel Drive, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare for full details.

**Bleadon** Steam Country Fayre will be held as last year on July 28/29. Details also from Roy Cox.

**Yesterday's** Farming, the 2-day event of the South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Club will be held this year at Eleighwater, near Hornsbury Mill, near Chard, Somerset on 7/8 September. Entry this year is open to all comers so if you haven't already collected a form from a Club meeting then send a sae to Brian Crudge, 22 Stoke Road, Taunton, Somerset.

**N.Somerset Group**, NVTEC Rally and Ploughing Match at Backwell Hill, Lulsgate, near Bristol, 7/8 September. Details, entry forms, etc. from Gerald Atherton, The Bungalow, Brinsea Lane, Congresbury, near Bristol.

#### CLUB EVENTS

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE\* - The Birmingham Museum of Science & Technology

As previously announced, this trip is definitely booked for Saturday, 12th October and will be £2 per head, adults and children, subsidised by the Club. There will be 3 pick-up points en route, starting at the Old Down Inn at 8 a.m. sharp, Radstock Market 8.20 a.m., and Bath Coach Station in Avon Street (Note this is NOT the Bus Station) at 8.30 a.m.

We expect this trip to be over-subscribed so in order that a second coach may be booked if necessary please book early. Money **MUST** be in advance please so send you cheque for the requisite amount, payable to WSEC and stating your chosen pick-up point, to Mrs. Jane Cannon, Hon.Sec., WSEC, 19 Eagle Road, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, Somerset. Closing date 30th September but early as possible will be greatly appreciated. We will be stopping at a public hostelry for a meal on the way home (NOT included in the price of the fare....!) and hope to get back around 10 p.m.).

This is a very interesting trip, with plenty to see, the Museum needs a good 3 hours to go around and the Birmingham shops are within easy reach. See last month for details.

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#### STOP PRESS

Wanted urgently to complete restoration of Fowler 1½ I.P.A.L. Part No.IPA501 turning gear cover. E. Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr.Bristol.

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#### STOP STOP PRESS (well to fill up space actually)

On behalf of Sylvia and I, may I express our thanks to the Committee for the way in which the Longleat Rally was organised.

It just has to be the best one yet. There was so much fringe activity from other sources to help keep our families and friends entertained for the whole weekend.

Ivor Yeo