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THE APRIL CLUB MEETING

25th April 1988

There was a very good attendance at the Old Down Inn for the April meeting with about seventy members present and some potential new members. On this occasion, our speaker was a well known Club member, Ray Earle, who gave us an insight into the background of his life in engineering leading him into taking up the hobby of model engineering. The talk was backed up by a display of models ranging from a very small Stuart vertical engine made from a set of castings given to him way back in 1931, to a Stuart 5a Vertical steam engine which would be capable of propelling a 16ft boat. Other Stuart models included a horizontal mill engine, a beam engine, plus model steam locomotives such as Titfield Thunderbolt, Mona, and Titch, all displayed on a short piece of track and baseboard.

Ray talked for about an hour, of his life from his apprenticeship days right through to his involvement with Stuart Turner Ltd. He now machines and builds models from Stuart castings which are mostly sold abroad as far away as USA and Japan.

At the end of the talk, our Chairman was presented with a small gas engine fully restored by Ray to a high standard. For the first time, Brian Munt was lost for something to say. Members were then invited to examine Ray's models and ask any questions; judging by the crowd surrounding him, most members were very interested indeed.

The lucky winners in Herbies raffle this month were Gill Hallam, (a screwdriver); Brian Reakes, (bottle of wine); Dot watts, (scented garden); and John Wheelwright, (wine glasses).

Finally, on behalf of the committee and members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ray for a very well presented, interesting and informative evening.

Brian Verrall

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THE MAY CLUB MEETING

23rd May 1988

It is so good to see the Old Down Inn nearly full with Club members as was the case this month. Some new faces, many old ones, but it shows that the interest is still abundant as it was nearly ten years ago when I first became a member.

The evening was opened by Brian Munt who explained that our Newsletter Editor had expressed a wish to be released from his post after serving the Club as editor alone for some six years. This task has at times been a real headache putting together all the snippets of information into what we all agree is one of the best Newsletters around, and I would like to take this opportunity as a committee member - and indeed on behalf of all members, to say a big "Thank-you" to Eric. If his successor, should we find one, make half so good a job of it, then it will still be good reading.

Brian then introduced Philip Thornton-Evison from Grove, Oxon. who kindly made the journey to give us a superb slide show. Philip has become the main photographic contributor to the Stationary Engine and has recently become Chairman of the Cotswold Oil Engine Club. He began by showing us pictures of a pump-house at Portsmouth housing two huge 180 hp Crossley gas engines with pistons as large as a five gallon drum. It was coupled to massive pumps for pumping raw sewage out to sea at low tide. As Philip remarked, this made it quite possible to get 'your own back'...! In the pump house were several other small engines; Crossley JJ and a 1070 twin side-shaft.

Next to appear on the screen was a review of engines at last years Tatton Park Rally and what a rally that must be judging by some of the makes and models, some of which I had never heard of. I really must make a point of attending one year.

The half-time soon arrived and I must say what a lovely gesture from Ray Earle in presenting a beautiful model of Thomas the Tank Engine to young William Rogers who is one of our slightly younger members; his eyes nearly popped out of their sockets. On with the slide show- and Philip treated us to some shots of a pump-house which he had discovered housing a very sad-looking Lister A type which had driven a deep-well pump. The tool-box housed a very startled looking mouse who had set up home inside - like the one in the Wind-mill in Old Amsterdam. A super snap shot, Philip must be quick on the draw!

Moving slightly away from engines, the next clip of slides were of vintage motor-cycles from the National Museum at Birmingham. This is the finest selection one can see, so as I am interested in bikes as well as engines, if anyone reading this has any old bikes lying around such as Brough Superior, Vincent 1000, Matchless or whatever, I would gladly swap a good restorable Lister D, not a bad swap don't you think?.

This very enjoyable evening was soon drawing to a close and I would like to thank Philip for a really excellent slide-show and good commentary to go with it; we welcome him back at any time in the future and I am sure we shall look at his photos in the Stationary Engine now with a more personal interest.

Last but not least, Herb's monthly raffle proved lucky for Roy (never won anything in a raffle) Cox, he won a bottle of wine. Doreen Taylor won a book token and was so pleased that she came and put her name down on the work-rota for the Club rally. Marian Lowther won a headscarf so that she won't get wind swept rushing the Newsletters down the road to Mrs Emery's post-box, and last but not least, Mary Walton won a photo album.

A very nice evening.

Phil Harris

Postscript .....The remainder of the evening was not quite so good as far as Philip Thornton-Evison was concerned. On his return journey, he was quietly motoring through Radstock at some 53 mph when he was stopped in a late night radar speed trap and told that his excessive speed was outside of the scope of the 'on the spot' penalty system. The case goes to County Court - all in the cause of furthering the knowledge of Stationary engines.....!  
NOT a very nice ending to a very nice evening!

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### THIS 'N THAT

Obituary We are indeed sorry to report the sudden and untimely death on Friday 6 May of Malcolm Howard whom many will have met at the Fairford Rally. Malcolm, Chairman of the Cotswold Oil Engine Preservation Society, suffered a heart attack just a week before and never recovered. He will be a sad loss to the engine scene and indeed to all his family to whom we tender our deepest sympathy.

Book Review A new publication which should endear itself to many of us in the Vintage preservation world, came on the bookshelves around the beginning of May. 'Old Glory- vintage restoration today' is a quarterly publication priced at £1-60 in full colour and encompasses Narrow boats, Fire Engines, Buses, Car Commercials, Fairground etc; the first edition has a double page spread giving a very generalised insight into restoring and rallying Stationary Engines. Whereas 'Old Glory' will never replace the 'Stationary Engine' for the true engine enthusiast, it certainly represents two hours good reading. I look forward to the Autumn edition.

Douglas Engines The Club has recently received a letter from an enthusiast in New Zealand who has somehow read one of our Newsletters! He is requesting information on Douglas single cylinder side valve engines so we have given him the address of Eric Brockway who was a Director of Douglas up to its closure some eight years ago. If any Douglas owner in our Club would like to help, he is a Mr R. Badland, 10 Fendalton Cres., Silverstream, New Zealand. (Postage cheapest airmail 34p)

### Forthcoming Events

"Full Quart Crank-Up" will be held this year on September 25th at the Full Quart Inn, Hewish near Weston super Mare. This popular event in aid of CLIC is by invitation only due to space constraints and, as always, is fully booked. However, the pub does an excellent lunch and the event is as enjoyable for the visitor as for the engine entrant so bring the family along and have a good day out.

Trowbridge Carnival Country Fayre will be held on Sat, September 3rd and engine entries are requested. Plaques will be given to all entrants. Phone Tony Jones on Frome 65189 to confirm your entry and for site details. It is hoped that entries can be in position by 9-30 am if at all possible please.

"Mendip Tencrest Crank-up" Please note that the date is the 7th August and not the date as stated in the May Newsletter. Contact Phil Harris or Bill Coombs for details. Rally site is next to the Mendip Inn on the A37 about four miles out of Shepton Mallet and one mile out of Gurney Slade.. Car Boot sale in morning. Please note.....7th August.

Vintageweekend Hellevoetsluis, Holland on August 19,20, 21st. If you are keen on entering, write or ring Bart von Donk (lovely name for an engine enthusiast) Zwartsluisje 75, 3284 LL Zuid Beijerland, Holland. Tel 01031 1869 3317. This event is popular with UK entrants being situated about 20 miles from Rotterdam and near a nice sandy beach. Remember- Vesting Dagen Soomweekend.

Rushmore Steam and Vintage Rally, near Aldershot, Hants. Not far off the M3 Odiham junction. A very interesting and well run rally, well worth a visit. July 30th and 31st. Entries closed but try contacting Patrick Knight for full details. 10 Upper Elms Rd., Aldershot, Hants. GU11 3ET

Not going to Stourpaine? Even if they decide where to hold the event? OK then, try a rather smaller event this year. Try Wellow Flower Show and Country Fayre. Wellow is a relatively unspoiled little village near Bath and last year a small group of our members were made most welcome with their engines. Plaques are provided and there are good camping facilities with a good rural, hospitable atmosphere. Remember, remember the 3rd of September and contact Lois Gumm who is show steward at 'Windy Ridge, Wellow, Bath, Tel Coombe down 835840.

Yesterdays Farming is this year at Pucklington on the B3168 near Ilminster, Som on September 10th / 11th. Details with SAE please from Brian Grudge, 22 Stoke Rd, Taunton, Som.

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### For Sale

1942 Standard Fordson, very restorable £220; Fowler 1½ hp engine £60 Phil Harris, Stoney Lane House, Cocklake, Wedmore, Som. Tel. Wedmore 712048.

Farmis: Stoney Lane House, Cocklake, Wedmore, Som. Lister A-type, perfect condition with water pump. Prize winner at Yesterday's Farming. £125 Mr. Clark, Langport (0458) 252490.

Bentall Pioneer & cake breaker made around 1880 Class 1, £380 fully restored but never rallied.; Flat-bed trailer with four 8" wheels, 3 new tyres, brakes, 5'6" X 3' bed and four corner jacks. £80. Phone Ed. Thorne on Bridgwater 455164 (shift worker so please leave message)

### Wanted

For 1920's or 1930's Petter M type. 1½hp, Cylinder barrel, piston, con. rod, an head. Ray Hicks, 8 Mortimer Court, Bishop Westall rd., Exeter, Devon. Tel. evenings only 0392- 50178



Editorial

As most members will by now be aware, our printing facility for this monthly Newsletter became beyond economic repair following a small fire. Ivor and Sylvia Yeo who have together word processed, printed, collated and stapled the Newsletter each month have taken the opportunity to hand the job back to the Club management, who are in turn seeking a new printing facility for well over 200 copies per month.

For some months now, I have been finding the task of Editor increasingly difficult for many reasons; not least because I want a rest from the job which I took on for three months some six years ago!...and the change of production method seemed a good opportunity. I have always enjoyed doing the Newsletter, mainly for the very reason that the Club was created for in the first instance, that is, the chance to meet others with similar interests and gain knowledge and information on all aspects of Stationary Engines.

To anyone reading this who is contemplating taking on the job, may I say how rewarding it is after a number of evenings transferring all the notes and jottings on scraps of paper, deciphering them, reading and correcting all the handwritten articles and then typing it all up in some sort of order, to visit a Monthly meeting and see all the hands avidly grasping out to read the finished product. Perhaps I have been lucky; I have heard more praise than criticism so perhaps the time to finish is while I am ahead in that respect...! A few thank-you's.....not least to Ivor and Sylvia who have put up with all I have thrown at them; to Claude and Marian for relieving me of the added task of postal distribution; and above all to the few regular contributors who have many times helped out when the file was bare of any material at all. You know who you are so I won't name names.

The pen (or rather keyboard) of both Ern Brassplate and Emerson Brantingham will be difficult to completely silence however as I fully intend to support the next incumbent of the job.

On a more general note, a word of caution. I have been involved in the WSEC since its inception and thus was instrumental in drawing up the Constitution on which its policies are based. The Club needs to examine that document and follow its aims from time to time. I mean of course paragraph 3 "...to further the knowledge of all aspects of the preservation of all stationary engines over 25 years old and provide members with opportunities for the interchange of ideas and experience" As with most clubs these days we are in grave danger of becoming a cross between an Insurance Broker and a sub-division of the Motor Caravan Club.

To this end, I have always tried to keep the Newsletter to the theme of stationary engine preservation; I pray that the next editor does likewise.

Eric Brain

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STOP PRESS

For Sale Two Lister D-types, a 1 hp X 500rpm., good runner; and the other is a Low magneto model, badly frosted but complete and with a good magneto. £10 the pair. Phone Mike Hodgson, Bristol (0272) 862696

Wanted By impoverished enthusiast for special project to while away the long winter months, a Suffolk motor mower engine in derelict condition but comprising at least the bare essentials. Phone Ivor Yeo on West Harptree 221604.

NEXT CLUB MEETING -- July 25th Guess the Object, a quiz using artefacts from yesteryear, compered by our vintage Chairman, Professor Brian Munt.

CORSLEY SHOW, Nr. Frome A dozen engines required to form a small display at this popular local event. Phone Rob Lambert Frome 63526 AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - 29th.