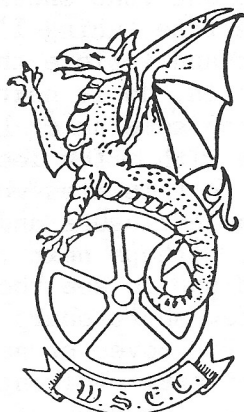


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1995



Please send newsletter material to:-
Robin Lambert,
15, Beechwood Avenue,
FROME,
Somerset. BA11 2AX
Telephone 01373/463526

The material in this Newsletter shall not be reproduced without prior consent and due reference to the Wessex Stationary engine Club. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. All rights reserved.

One evening in August 1984!! (I ought to have written this before) I was out in my workshop trying to get a piston out of a hopper and I was getting more and more bad tempered tripping over things in the shed when I heard a vehicle pull up outside and in walked an acquaintance of mine (I won't call him a friend because he's always on the cadge and never carries any money with him) "Bill" he said, "I don't suppose you have an old fuel tank for a Petter AVA 1 Diesel engine" "Yes, Gordon" I said I had only tripped over it a few minutes earlier, I showed him the tank and he said it was just what he wanted. "How much" he asked, "Five pounds" I said knowing he never had any money on him and he would try to beat me down "OK" he said, I was surprised. "But I'll have to bring the money down for you. I'll be so lucky I thought, then he told me he had an old water pump in the van outside. "No thanks Gordon" I said "I've got too much junk about now, "Well have a look at it then" he said "that won't hurt you. I kept on telling him that I didn't have any room to put it but in the end he persuaded me to go out and have a look in the back of his van.

In the back of his van was this pump, on its side, when Gordon pulled it out and stood it upright it was over five feet high, what a lovely monster of a pump I thought, it had two 16" pulleys, one fast, one loose on top of it and a large brass or gun metal cylinder half-way down one side. The bearing on the end of the conrod was cracked and it had just been done, Gordon had had a go at it with a large hammer, it was seized solid. I thought what a nice unusual pump it was and I would love to own it. "I only want ten pounds for it" Gordon said, I told him again I didn't have the room for it, I was very short of space. After a bit of arguing he said I could have it for £8, "I'll give you £2 for it" I said walking back into my workshop, "No" he said "I paid more than that for it", thats your problem I thought, although really speaking he was giving it to me as it was worth much more than the ten pounds he had asked for it. I still stuck to £2 and Gordon eventually came down to £6 and at that moment Violet came out with a cup of tea for us and she said "You don't want that rusty thing, where are you going to put it? we haven't got any room". Gordon and I were drinking our tea and having a fag, we talked of other things for about half an hour, then he said he would be willing to split the difference so I said "OK I'll pay you £4 for the pump, but then he asked me for the £4 and I told him that he still owed me a fiver for the fuel tank which was in his van and he thought that I had forgotten about it. He got a bit bad tempered when he realized that he still owed me a £1.

The pump was soon freed up and my mate soon made me a bearing and a few days later we had the pump running again, but I've never been able to acquire any information about it perhaps someone in the club can help. I took it to the club rally at Monkton Mine in 1986. It has a brass plate on the bottom which states Burnard & Son, Dairy & Refrigeration Engineers, Vauxhall SE11.

BILL COOMBS.

Thanks for your letter Bill, hope we haven't got to wait eleven years for the next one!!!
ED.

SELWOOD PRESERVATION RALLY - 27/28/29TH MAY.

As most rally goers will know this rally has been re-located from Longleat where it was held for a few years to Rode Tropical Bird Gardens, not a bad move by my book as I firmly believe that some events can become very repetitious if held at the same location year after year and a change can rejuvenate the event. I think most exhibitors would agree that it was a good move as it was a nice size field that was flat, unlike the long sloping field of Longleat. I did hear a few comments that this should be placed here and that should not have been there but after all it was a first time event and with a little fine tuning I'm sure things will improve. If anyone didn't take the opportunity to visit and explore the Bird Gardens then they really missed out, it's superb, so if you didn't go in, do it next year, you will be surprised. I would think exhibitor numbers were about the same as at Longleat with the stationary engines mostly placed around the perimeter hedge with a few located in a horseshoe formation near the centre of the field, Bill and I were in this area which was very nice except that the public had a job to find their way into the enclosure and were sometimes trying to view the engines from gaps between our vehicles, perhaps next year it would be best to put the engines 'outside' the horseshoe and let the public see them. As you will all know our Bank Holiday weather always has to have a few short sharp showers and nothing changed at this event, occasionally everyone had to run for cover or get soaked through. This must have proved popular with the beer tent and model tent. Talking of the Model tent, a nice display by Bill Hanham was just inside the doorway with some of the models on loan to him by club member Derrick Watts, they were all running nicely on compressed air. Talking to Bill he asked me how a model that I was building was coming along and would I like to bring it along as a static exhibit on Sunday and Monday, this I duly did explaining that it was almost completed except for the 'plumbing'. Well would you believe it Bill and Ron Frampton had this engine running in less than an hour by making all the necessary connections with plastic tubing and with just a flick on the flywheel it started up, I must say I felt 10 feet tall as the timing must have been just right (more luck than judgement) and my years at Trowbridge College seemed very worthwhile.

I thought the stall section may have been smaller than usual but the numbers did swell on Monday as a few extra stalls came in. I was told that the entertainment on Saturday evening was first class with everyone staying on until the end. A little bird also told me that Brian Verrall and Derrick Watts were actually dancing the night away too, with their wives I Hope!!!

Walking around the engine line I came across some interesting engines, club member Adrian Grant had brought two along, one an AC and the other a very nice little Hobbs, Edward and Gloria Carp were exhibiting a nicely restored 1924 Lister 2L and lastly (it must get top marks for manoeuvrability) was a Fairbanks Morse Eclipse owned by a gentleman that I know only as Mo. Lots of cars, motorbikes and tractors were on display and to help set the scene was a 46 key Marengi Fair Organ from Shaftesbury which sounded very nice, also a good selection of commercials and of course John Kyte and his fire engine.

A very funny thing happened to me on Friday afternoon while Bill and I were unloading the "Victoria", a lady appeared from a camper van parked some 10 metres away and in a Basil Fawlty type manner said 'I hope you are not going to leave that there, if you do I'll report you to the fire officer and have you removed' and off she stormed across the field towards the officials tent, then having no luck in finding anyone to back her up came back and carried on complaining about poor old Victoria. I hoped at this stage the engines feelings were not hurt as internally she does combust but has never been known to let herself down and do it externally. Well to cut a long story short when I arrived back on Saturday morning the lady and her camper had gone only to be replaced by Brian and Mary Verrall, what a nice exchange I thought but what had happened to the 'irate lady'? - She had been relocated in the public car park!!! The motto here must be if you want to get rid of your neighbours borrow my 'Victoria', moderate rates on weekdays, extra as weekends.

ED.

RODE BIRD GARDENS RALLY (With a difference).

On entering the rally field (or was it we wondered) we noticed a man combing a 'goat' then to our amazement out pops a 'ginger Tom', this made us wonder if we had taken the wrong turning, but then we were brought back to reality with a 'mobile disco' and this was only Friday night, we still had Saturday, Sunday and Monday to go. Saturday turned out to be fairly normal, then came Sunday, the disco man had a bit of a problem engine - the problems lasting all day long, by Sunday afternoon we thought they had opened up a 'garage'. Then came Monday, this turned out to be the most eventful day of them all we thought we had joined 'pets corner' because there were parrots to see as well, but the best is yet to come. The chairman came to visit us and we asked him if he had met 'Blossom'. Blossom who? he said, we replied "come with us" and to his amazement there in full glory was 'Blossom' the ferret in his own house, and our chairman had not had one over the eight, so all in all we had quite an eventful weekend in more ways than one.

Yours astonished - A club member.

WHATS ON.

SUNDAY 16TH JULY - DHL Mast Team Marathon at Filton Airfield, Bristol. If you would like to take an engine to this event please give Tony Ferrand a ring 0117/9721724 (Bristol).

SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST - Chameleon Fun Day at Frome Victoria Park, a nice day out for all the family, stationary engines very welcome just turn up or give Jill or Dick Goodenough a ring to say you will be coming on 01985/216642 (Warminster).

SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST - Glastonbury Extravaganza to be held at the Abbey Park. Stationary engines will be made very welcome. If anyone wishes to go ring Pat Thick on 01458/832745.

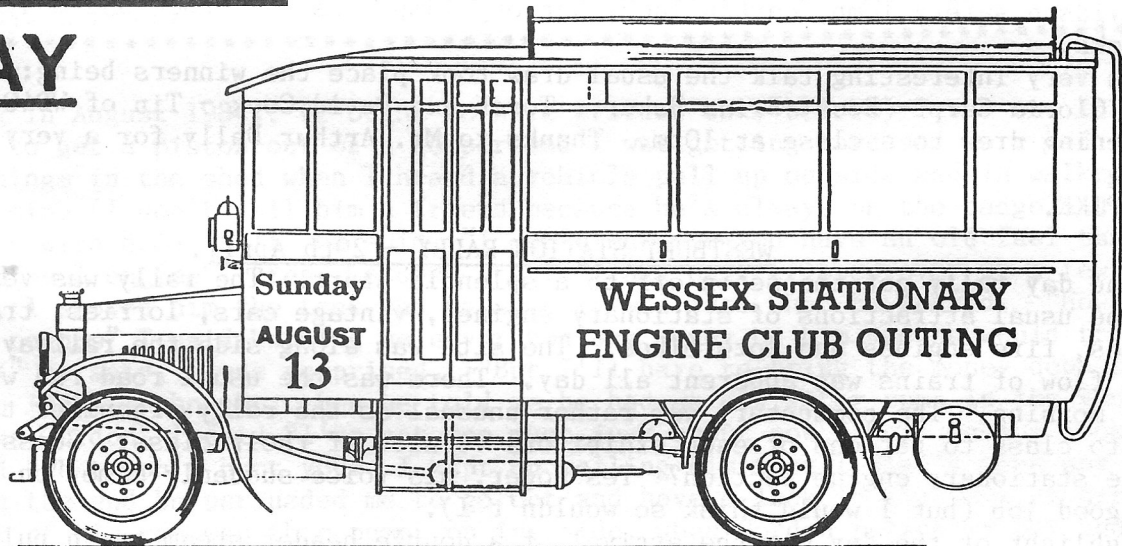
CLUB WHATS ON

MONDAY 31ST JULY - Club Meeting at the Old Down Inn will be a Crank-Up and Bring and Buy evening, bring along your surplus bits and pieces and perhaps go home with someone else's, also it's a good chance to give your lighting sets a run!!

SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST - As advertised in our March newsletter this year our Club outing will be going to Morwellham Quay, Nr. Tavistock, West Devon. The cost for this super day out will be £6 - Adults, Non Members £10, Children - £4. This charge will include admission to the Quay. The coach will leave the Old Down Inn at 8.00am prompt. Members and friends who would like to go please send your cheques to Jackie Lambert, made payable to Wessex S.E. Club Ltd. and your seats will be reserved for you.

MORWELLHAM

QUAY

THE CLUB IS HOPING TO START A MEMBERS LIBRARY.

It will be run by Alan Carney. Alan will keep a record of books, magazines, leaflets and any interesting reference items on any make/model of Stationary Engines that we can acquire.

Members will be able to borrow books on loan. A record will be kept much the same as any other library.

To get this project underway, Alan would be grateful for any of your books etc which you would like to pass to him and which will be catalogued and stored at his home address. Members wishing to use the facility can either ring or contact him at any of the club meetings.

Club member Rob Armstrong dropped me a line with some useful information on what he found in a Trowbridge scrap yard. Rob's letter is as follows:-

Dear Robin,

I was grateful to have a copy of the Club Safety Code. When I found that none of my sons were available to help with the off loading of my engine for the Semington Rally (and the grandchildren are far too tiny!) I decided to look seriously for a winch for my trailer. I found the ideal bit of kit in Drinkwater's scrapyard in Trowbridge - he has a few brand new boxed American yacht winches in stock. Not cheap, the asking price was £35, but strong, compact and capable of a 600lb pull if only one layer of cable is on the drum. No cable with them but suitable 3/16th wire rope is sold by the metre at Avery, Knight and Bowler in James Street West in Bath (Opposite the side entrance to Sainsburys). You can find Drinkwaters if you start at the Tesco supermarket (to fill up with cheap petrol) and drive towards Bradford-On-Avon. It's on the left after the second set of traffic lights.

Thanks for your letter Rob, I'm sure Pat Drinkwater will get a few visitors who will no doubt snap up the remainder of his stock as these winches do cost a lot of money. ED

CLUB MEETING - Old Down Inn Monday 24th April.

On arriving at the Old Down Inn I was greeted with the news that I was doing the report for this month. I was told by the wife before I came, no its not this month as she waved good-bye on her night out with the girls - so here goes:-

Firstly the topic was altered at the very last moment to a talk on the Somerset Mines by Mr. Arthur Dally. Approximately 40 members were present to hear a very interesting talk on mining in the past. Mr. Dally himself was a miner for some 30 years with the last eleven years acting for the Miners Rescue Service.

The history of the Somerset Mines goes back 500 years with Mr. Dally himself joining Norton Hill Colliery at the age of 14. The first light used was a candle which had a dual purpose firstly to be able to see to work and secondly to tell the air purities. If the air was bad the candle would dim or go out. This was later replaced by a carbon lamp. When the mines were nationalised in 1947 the battery safety light then took its place. These lights were attached to either the miners helmet or belt. This was brought in for safety in the event of any dangerous gas around, as a naked flame would ignite the gas and cause an explosion which was the main cause of accidents underground. A Davidson Safety Lamp was designed for checking out any carbon dioxide gas (also known as black damp) which worked the same way as the candle but was not able to ignite the gas. Because so many miners were killed by poisonous gasses each miner carried a gas respirator which gave them an hour to get to a place of safety. Mr. Dally had an interesting display on show which included the Davidson safety lamp, carbon lamp, battery lamp, gus and crook and many photographs and books.

After a very interesting talk the usual draw took place the winners being:- Ray Baker - Clock, Gloria Carp - Book, Brian Baker - Torch and David Cook - Tin of WD40.

The evening drew to a close at 10pm. Thanks to Mr. Arthur Dally for a very interesting evening.

ROGER PIKE.

WESTBURY STATION RALLY - 29th April.

This one day rally got the season off to a splendid start. The rally was very well attended with the usual attractions of stationary engines, vintage cars, lorries, tractors, army vehicles, fire engines and motorbikes. The site was along side the railway line so a steady flow of trains was apparent all day. There was the usual road run which took place in the morning. The commentary was rather unusual as the rally organiser travelled from class to class to get one of each exhibitors version of their class. Guess who got picked for the stationary engine section? Yes Roger, his voice suddenly came "on the air". He did a good job (but I would think so wouldn't I).

The highlight of the day was the arrival of a double header steam train pulling a fair number of carriages. The engine was the 'Britannia' and it was a special passenger excursion from Plymouth to London. The train had a 2hr stop at Westbury so Roger had a close look. He asked if there were any souvenirs for sale - 'Not to the general public' was the reply 'but are you staff', 'sort of' says Roger, stood there in his overalls. 'OK then' and Roger was able to buy a special excursion mug with Britannia on it. He came back wearing a silly grin and clutching his precious mug. Truly the highlight of his day. Unfortunately I never took a camera but many of the ralliers lined the siding and took photographs. If anyone has any pictures of the Britannia, I would be very grateful if I could borrow the negatives.

The day drew to a close around 5.30pm. A must for your calendar next year 'to start you off'.
LINDA PIKE.

HAZELBURY BRYAN RALLY - 14th May.

A sunny morning greeted this once again successful rally, we arrived to a fast filling site with many exhibits and a very large car boot sale. People were already buying their various bargains and it was only 8.30am. There was a large display of stationary engines as well as tractors, motorbikes, cars, models and a bouncy castle for the kids. Refreshments, homemade were on sale all day as was fish and chips from the very busy chip van. A very large raffle took place at 4.00pm to end a very friendly enjoyable day.

LIN AND ROGER PIKE.

WANTED - 24 volt Light bulbs with household bayonet type fittings, any wattage would do.
Please contact Bill Coombs on 01749 840868 (Gurney Slade)

WELCOME to new members - Mr. H. Smith and two juniors (sorry I do not have the juniors names) from Westbury, Wilts. Also Mr. B. Sheppard from Salisbury.