

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER



JUNE 1998

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***** EDITORIAL *****

We are now in the middle of the Rally season where there is now plenty of activity and events of all varieties but none of you seem to have the time to put pen to paper. I know I keep on about this but unless I get material for the newsletter it really makes the task of Editor that much harder. Don't forget, each year I present a cup for the best contribution to the newsletter, this could be just one article, so come on have a go, don't let that cup go back to the wilds of Basingstoke again next year.

**** CHAIRMANS REPORT ****

By the time you read this report this years Wessex Rally will be over. I for one will be rather relieved, it is quite a lot of work for just a few people organising everything in the few months leading up to the rally. One thing we need from you the members is comments and criticism on the rally, this can be acted upon and improvements made for next year. Rallies I have attended already this year include Castle Combe, Selwood and Hazelbury Bryan, all of these were exceptionally good, with much larger attendances of exhibitors and the general public, I hope the same happens at our own rally. The committee has put in quite a lot of effort and hard work in this years programme of events, including a coach trip in August and a social evening in October, the least you can do is to support these events and make them the success they deserve.
B.J.B.

WESSEX SUMMER COACH TRIP TO DINGLES STEAM VILLAGE IN DEVON.

BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW!

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club are organising a coach trip to DINGLES STEAM VILLAGE in Devon on Sunday August 9th. Leaving the Old Down Inn car park at 8.30 a.m. and leaving Devon late afternoon to arrive back at the Old Down early evening. The coach fare will be £8 per head if we can get at least 30 passengers, children will be free. The cost to enter the Village Complex will be about £3 per person. The village consists of over 20,000 sq ft, of indoor displays of stationary engines, steam engines and vintage machinery both working and static. There is Mrs. Dingles Kitchen, The Village Store, Toddlers Play Areas, Picnic Terrace, Vintage Road Vehicles, Working displays of Steam Traction Engines, Steam Rollers, Stationary Engines and Vintage Machinery, Belt Driven Machinery, Riverside Walks and Picnic Areas, Fairground Art, Education Room, Blacksmiths Shop, in fact something for everyone. This is your chance to enjoy a good day out without the hassle of looking after an engine all day and the opportunity to have a good natter and socialise with the rest of the Wessex members.

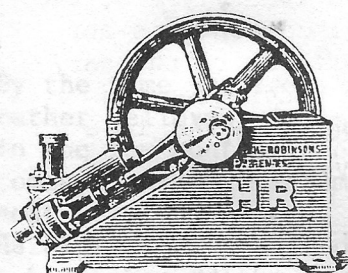
I advise early bookings, just ring Jackie Lambert on Frome 01373 463526.

N.B. This "DINGLES" VILLAGE has no connection with the Emmerdale lot.

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

ENGINES WANTED FOR A DISPLAY AT MELLS FLOWER SHOW ON AUGUST 29TH FROM 10 A.M. ONWARDS.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN ATTEND BY RINGING 01749 342671.

Having seen an increasing number of small power engines, mostly of unknown make, putting in appearances on the rally field this year I thought it may be interesting to many and perhaps even helpful to some if I were to share through the newsletter a substantial amount of information on and illustrations of small power engines which were featured and advertised in the MODEL ENGINEER & ELECTRICIAN magazine between the years 1900 and 1916. I have recently acquired an incomplete but none-the-less substantial run of this weekly journal between these dates and they are yielding up a storehouse of advertisements, pictures and articles on many makes of engines. M.E. & E. was founded in 1898 as model engineering was entering its hey-day and small power gas and oil engines served both as a model engineering exercise and subsequently as a much needed source of power for lathes and lighting etc., in model engineers' workshops. Model engineers then, as today, were justifiably proud of their workshops and M.E. & E. features workshops of which many of us today would be envious. A small gas, oil or steam engine would be installed to power a range of machinery through line shafting & belting which in some photographs seem to leave hardly any room for the man himself. Out of such places came an infinite variety of models, from steam yachts to benzoline powered roller skates! There were dozens of commercially produced small engines, available either in kit form or complete. There were also many totally freelance engines being built, some from original detailed designs for which patterns were made and castings produced as one-offs, to engines made for as low a cost as possible from scrap odds and ends. I hope to show you many of these, including the world's smallest working steam engine of that time, shown in the photograph alongside a common house-fly for size comparison, Which was larger? Wait and see! I have recklessly promised our desperate newsletter editor an article each month, so by way of an introduction, here are a few pictures hopefully to whet your appetites. An engine with which we are already familiar is the ROBINSON'S HR engine, shown here in its original design as a hot tube ignition gas engine. From the same issue in 1903 is this local advert, unfortunately not illustrated, for a horizontal engine, presumably a mill style steam engine, from GEORGE GOODMAN & CO, of EAST HAYES, BATH. Does anyone know anything about this company?

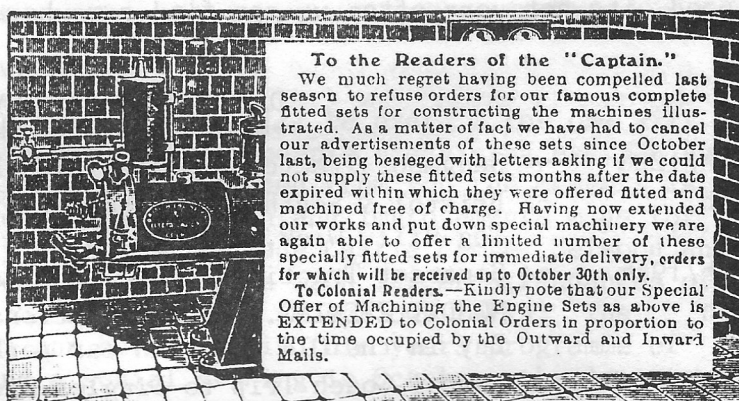


Robinson's
PATENT
"H R"
GAS ENGINE
SELF-CONTAINED
WATER TANK.

Send for particulars to

A. E. & H. ROBINSON & Co.,
Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester.

Geo. Goodman and Co.'s Advt.—Send us 1½d. for Blueprint (Elevation) of our latest Horizontal Engine; it is a most unique design, and is giving great satisfaction. Sets of the Castings in Iron and Gunmetal are only 5s. 6d., and we return remittance if goods don't please. This Set is the best we have yet offered, and will please the most critical customer. Are you thinking of having a Hand Planer this winter? We make a splendid little machine for 50s.; it planes 6 by 4. Photo, one stamp (really good photo).—**GEO. GOODMAN AND Co., East Hayes, Bath.**



To the Readers of the "Captain."

We much regret having been compelled last season to refuse orders for our famous complete fitted sets for constructing the machines illustrated. As a matter of fact we have had to cancel our advertisements of these sets since October last, being besieged with letters asking if we could not supply these fitted sets months after the date expired within which they were offered fitted and machined free of charge. Having now extended our works and put down special machinery we are again able to offer a limited number of these specially fitted sets for immediate delivery, orders for which will be received up to October 30th only.

To Colonial Readers.—Kindly note that our Special Offer of Machining the Engine Sets as above is EXTENDED to Colonial Orders in proportion to the time occupied by the Outward and Inward Mails.

Finally, a tantalising advert from the **BRITISH ENGINEERING & ELECTRICAL CO.** of **LEEK, STAFFORDSHIRE**, (yes **LEEK!**) who issued this ad. in 1912 to readers of *The CAPTAIN* magazine informing them about the non-availability of their engines, so they covered up the picture. However, all will be revealed next time when we will be taking a more detailed look at **LEEK** engines.

**** THE MARKET PLACE ****

FOR SALE - **LISTER** 5 HP 'L' type. 1921. Complete with Trolley. (Open crank model). Petrol/Paraffin. ML Flick Magneto.
PETTER 5 HP Model 'M'. On Trolley. In running order. Tank Cooled.
VILLIERS 1½ HP. Hopper Cooled 2 Stroke. With original Kidney shaped fuel tank in running order.
22 VOLT DYNAMO WITH SWITCH BOARD. (Foster Transformers and switch gear Ltd.)
STUART WATER PUMP Type A2F 16.
LATHE ideal for Model Maker. On stand.
HOMELIGHT AUXILIARY TANK GENERATOR ENGINE. 2 Stroke. 1½ HP.
SENSIBLE OFFERS INVITED FOR THE ABOVE ITEMS TO IAN SKUSE ON 01934 834943 (Home) OR 0378 496850 (MOBILE).

The death has occurred of Anne Giblett, wife of Cecil Giblett of Street, Somerset. Cecil is a long standing member of the Wessex Club and Anne nearly always accompanied him to the rallies. The Wessex Club would like to give our sympathy and condolences to Cecil on his sad loss.

***** WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB'S SPRING COACH TRIP *****

On Sunday 26th April about thirty Wessex members visited Ed Bolton's Open Day at Amersham, Bucks. The coach left the Old Down car park sharp at the advertised time of 8.30, we then headed for Frome to pick up passengers, then on to Trowbridge for the final pick up point. Then it was on to Hungerford where we headed for the motorway and on to Reading Services for breakfast. I certainly felt better after a nice cooked breakfast. We arrived at Ed Boltons, which is an old farm yard, to find his 'Open Day' well under way, with loads of visitors already there. It certainly turned a few heads when our very large coach drove up the very narrow lane to gain access, it was too large to go in the usual car park, but the friendly farmer next to Ed's let us park in his yard. Ed has a very large private collection of engines all installed in buildings, and all in running order. On his open days he has to recruit the services of about twenty local enthusiasts to attend to the exhibits that are running, as well as all the engines installed in the buildings quite a few engines were running outside. Also outside were three steamers all fired up and in steam, one was a Clayton and Shuttleworth traction engine, and a Clayton portable and a Richard Hornsby portable. An engine inside that I would have liked to have brought back with me was a Crossley Slide Valve Gas Engine, circa 1879, reputed to be the first 4 cycle engine to be sold in this country, there were plenty of engines for sale including some very large ones priced at £3 - £4,000 each. A few autojumble stalls were set up selling everything from spares to complete engines, also Wessex member Patrick Knight was doing a good trade with his book stand. After several laps around the engines and a couple of visits to the tea shop it was 3.30 and time to depart. After a quick visit in the motorway services we arrived back at the Old Down at about 6.30. I thought the day out was really good, its not very often we can find somewhere to go connected with our hobby. B.J.B.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- JULY 11th/12th - Sedgmoor Tractor & Engine Club Rally, Highbridge, Somerset.
- JULY 12th - Bristol & South Gloucester Stationary Engine Clubs Vintage Rally at Tog Hill, Wick, Nr. Bristol.
- JULY 18th/19th - Somerset Traction Engine Club Rally. Low Ham, Nr. Langport.
- JULY 27th - MONDAY EVENING. Wessex Stationary Engine Club Crank Up and Bring and Buy in the Old Down Inn car park. Plus the usual raffle.
- AUGUST 9th SUNDAY - Annual Coach Trip to Dingles Steam Village, Lifton, Devon. See separate advert for details.
- AUGUST 15th/16th - Yesterdays Farming. Haselbury Plucknett, Nr. Yeovil.
- AUGUST 22nd/23rd - Stanton Drew Steam Up. Curls Farm, Stanton Drew.
- AUGUST 30th/31st - Honiton Hill Rally. Nr. Honiton, Devon.
- SEPT. 6th Sunday - Tencrest 'Mendip Mayhem'. 9 am - 4.30 pm. At Brian Fears Garage, Nr. Oakhill. Wanted - Stationary Engines, Car Boots, Tractors, Motorcycles etc. NO CAMPING. For details ring Roger Pike on 01761 233028.
- SEPT. 12th/13th - Countryside Cavalcade. Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet.
- SEPT. 19th/20th - Berwick St. John Country Fair. Berwick St. John, Nr. Shaftesbury. Ring 01747 830484 for details.
- SEPT. 19th/20th - Backwell Steam and Country Working. Scrubbets Farm, Backwell Common. off the A370 Weston-super-Mare Road.
- OCTOBER 3rd Saturday - Wessex Club Social Evening and Skittle Match and Supper at the Cheddar Football Club, Cheddar. 8 pm start. Raffle as usual. Please let Jackie Lambert know if you wish to attend. Ring 01373 463526.
- OCTOBER 3rd/4th - John Kytes Garden Rally. See the Big Brush in action.

FOR SALE - JOB LOT. 2 LISTER 'D',S WITH EXTRA DRIVING PULLEYS. NEW PETROL TANK KIT ETC. 1- LISTER 'A'. PART DISMANTLED, WITH WATER AND PETROL TANKS ALL READY FOR RESTORATION. ALL THE LOT FOR ONLY £45. IF INTERESTED RING GRAHAM WYATT ON 01225 862112. BRADFORD-ON-AVON AREA.