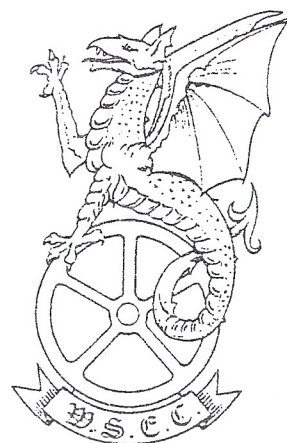


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

JUNE 2003

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NEWSLETTER



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******* EDITORIAL *******

Once again our membership has reached the 350 mark. This means the WSEC is as popular as ever. This is encouraging news to the committee as it means we must be getting something right. Another West Country club that used to have over 300 members are now reduced to around 35 members, a very sad decline indeed, especially so, as this club used to organise one of the largest rallies in the the West Country. Long may our club flourish and maintain the reputation it has at present.

******* CHAIRMANS REPORT *******

The plans for the rally at Clutton are progressing well at the moment, with entries coming in for all sections. This weekend the committee are moving all the rally kit from Cheddar to a storage area we have in Clutton, ready for when we set up the rally. We would like to appeal to members to help out at the rally field on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings of the rally week to help set it up, putting in the stakes, roping etc. Please let me or any committee member know if you are willing to help, remember "many hands make light work". We would also like volunteers to assist on the barbeque on the Saturday evening, cooking the 'bangers and beefburgers'. So come on you 'cordon blue' chefs, give us a demonstration of your culinary skills. As you will see from the separate article the WSEC put on a brilliant display of engines and machinery at this years Royal Bath and West Show, as Chairman I would like to thank personally all of you who took part, and a special vote of thanks to Tony Carter who was Steward of the section and worked really hard setting it all up and maintaining security the four days we were there.

ENGINES WANTED—ENGINES WANTED—ENGINES WANTED

SOMERLEAZE CRANK-UP
SOMERLEAZE FARM SHOP. WOOCKEY Nr WELLS
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20th 9am ONWARDS.

Engines, Tractors, Displays Etc. Barbeque. Cheese and Cider Tasting. Car Boot Sale. £5 per pitch. All Welcome. Contact Steve on 01749 679516. After 6 pm.

Find it on the Wells to Wedmore Road. This event is run by a Wessex Stationary Engine Club Member.

NEW MEMBERS

The WSEC would like to welcome the following new members to our club. Mr P Rich from Chilcompton. Mr and Mrs K Martin from Holwell- Nunney Nr Frome. And Junior Member Oliver Baker from Shepton Mallet. We hope your membership with our club will be an enjoyable and long one.

THE ROYAL BATH AND WEST SHOW

28th to 31st MAY 2003

What a glorious event! Four days of brilliant sunshine and a crowd of over 160,000 people. The event? This years Royal Bath and West Show at Shepton Mallet. The WSEC were asked to provide a display of engines in the Show's 'Power of the Past' section. After asking members to take part we had 14 members who displayed their engines and machinery, they were- Ed and Gloria Carp with their 5hp 1924 Lister L, Bill and Marg Appleby with their 5hp 1908 Victoria, Brian Reed with his 7hp 1911 Victoria, Phil Marshall with his 5hp 1916 Hercules driving a 1917 Massey Harris Mill, Les Carpenter with his tank cooled Lister A driving a corn mill, Steve Baker with a Lister B, driving a large water pump, Mike Snook with his 5hp 1922 Powell, this engine was driving 6 appliances which were brought by Fred Biggs, these were a winnower, a chaff cutter a grindstone, a cake crusher, a rootcutter, and a mill, this was a very impressive display that attracted a lot of attention, Fred and Mike deserve medals for such ingenuity in setting it up in the first place. John Patten had a small 1952 Teagle engine, Nigel Martin had a 1926 3hp Amanco which he was showing on behalf of his late father Bill Martin who used to show this engine at all the Wessex events, Arthur Smith had his 10hp Ruston Hornsby I.P. 1924 vintage, Robin and Jackie Lambert had a 8hp 1936 Ruston Hornsby A.P. As chairman I had to out do the rest by taking two engines, I took my 4 ½ hp Ruston PB 1939 ,driving a mechanical hacksaw, and my 1934 5hp Lister B driving a H3 Lister water pump. To complete the display Sam Jackson had his Austin Seven Tractor which again attracted quite a lot of interest. We had a constant stream of people looking at the engines and asking questions about them. One of the visitors was David Edgington who said he thought it was the best engine display he had seen at the Bath and West in over 20 years. On Wednesday evening the PA to the Shows director came up to me to congratulate the club on their display and told me it was the best they had ever had, I told her the only answer to that was to invite us back again, as only a stationary engine club was capable of putting on a good display Well done to the Wessex members who took part and made this display the obvious success it was. For me it was the shortest distance I have ever travelled to a rally, as my workshop where I store my engines is less than 2 miles from the showground, and I live only 2 miles in the other direction, so it did not take me long to arrive from home each morning. This was the longest show I have ever exhibited at and certainly one of the best, there was so much to see and do around the show that the time passed by rapidly. The credit for the engine display area must go to Tony Carter who spent the entire week at the show setting up the engine display area with stakes and ropes etc, Tony made sure everything went like clockwork. On behalf of the club, and all the members who attended I would like to thank Tony very very much.

B.J.B.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROYAL BATH AND WEST SHOW 2003

POWER OF THE PAST-WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB

I am writing on behalf of the Show team to thank you and your club members for providing a display within the Power of the Past area at this year's Royal Bath and West Show. The Show was very successful, attracting over 160,000 visitors, and with the combination of the beautiful sunshine and record crowds, I hope you and your members thoroughly enjoyed the Show. As ever, we are very grateful for feedback regarding any aspect of the Show, therefore, please forward any comments you may have about this year's event. Please pass on my gratitude to your members, I am sure the visiting public enjoyed both the quality of your display and the friendly and approachable manner of your members.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Taylor PA to Shows Director.

NORTH DORSET STATIONARY ENGINE AND TRACTOR CLUB SHOW

HAZELBURY BRYAN
SUNDAY MAY 11th 2003

In possibly the best turnout to any local event, 73 engines lined up in 4 rows in the large field, next to both the main entrance, and the entrance from the car park. Looking across the field to the 100 bootsale stalls, there were tractors, cars, motorbikes, and military vehicles. Smaller attractions ranged from a collection of traps, to a fair organ and a bouncy castle, with a great variety in between. There were also a variety of engines, displaying the full range of the hobby. One engine that caught my eye included a Norman T300, supplied to the War Department in 1940 to drive a hot air blower to engines warm, and when purchased by the present owner, Andy Charlesworth, had only run for 12 hours. A novel use for a small air-cooled engine, and one which attracted youngsters to the engine, was a wooden Ferris wheel, with toy animals in the baskets. Next to this was a 1936 Lister 2hp, with a pair of fearsome-looking sheep clippers buzzing away. It is unusual to see an engine drive the machinery it was supplied with, but the 1938 Listed D owned by David Lamb was exhibited driving the 14 ½ inch Floodgate pump it was provided with. The pump can move 4000 gallons an hour, used to drain trenches and ponds and was manufactured by Phoenix Engineering of Chard, who are still in operation. My first restoration was of a 49cc Teagle Hedgecutter engine, and so I was both pleased and surprised to see another on the rally field. Owned by John Patten, the engine was exhibited driving a small Stuart-Turner water pump. A very unusual collection is owned by Larry Skeats, who collects and exhibits 'vintage traps', ranging from mouse traps up to terrifying spring loaded man traps with large teeth. Moving on to vehicles, over 150 cars glinted in the sunlight. They varied from a Ford Model T to an Austin Seven to a Rolls Corniche to a Morris 10, almost the whole history of the motor car in one place. More than 30 tractors lined up almost nose to tail in their allocated space, including a very early Aveling Roller, a Fordson Super Major, and a very rusty International. Unfortunately, exhibit boards do not seem to have caught on in the tractor community, and as tractors are not my strongpoint, I can't give any more details. Another subtle reminder to make sure you have exhibit boards! 40 motorbikes, including 6 trikes of varying shapes and sizes, and 12 military vehicles occupied the far side of the field, next to the bootsale stalls. The latter included an amazingly long GMC, what the Americans called a 'gasolene truck', stretched back, comprising a cab and tanker, then a gasolene trailer, then a water trailer. Also in the military vehicles was an ex-Camel Trophy Land Rover Discovery, which in 2002 drove an aid run to Bosnia, just one of the humanitarian missions it has undertaken. For those not familiar with the Camel trophy, it involves teams of 4x4's driving thousands of miles through jungles, deserts, or mountains, crossing all obstacles in their way. The vehicles are pushed to the very limits and beyond, so it is surprising the Land Rover even survived its ordeal. In one of the most varied and full events of the year, stationary engines again had a prominent place, attracting public interest. The keyword for this event is variety-and lots of it!

JONATHON HOCKEDY
WSEC JUNIOR REPORTER

******* EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY *******

MONDAY JULY 28th Club Night. Crank up at the Court Hotel Chilcompton. Usual raffle for club funds. Food and drink available in the hotel. Award for the most unusual engine exhibited. Turn up you never know your luck.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY August 9th & 10th. WSEC Annual Rally at Clutton. Barbeque, raffle and prize giving on the Saturday night. Prizes for the raffle would be most welcome, so would a little help from members to assist with the various tasks.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY 16th & 17th August. Yesterdays Farming Rally at Bearley Farm Tintinhull Nr Yeovil.

SUNDAY August 31st. MENDIP MEYHEM at Brian Fears garage Oakhill. Crank-up and car boot sale. For details ring Roger on 01761 233028.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21st Cranks at the ship. Crank-up at the Ship and Castle at Congesbury. Ring Ian for an entry as room is limited. Roast dinners etc available in the pub. Telephone 01934 834943.

WSEC Crank-up at Radstock Museum

Sunday 18th May 2003

In a pleasant change to normal routine, this crank-up was an afternoon event, starting about 11.00. The 15 engines were lined-up on the grass verge opposite the museum, sloping down to the river. There could be no doubt who or what we were, as the new club banner was prominently strung across the ropes. The museum gave WSEC members free entry this time, unlike last year, (I managed to get in free last year however!). The engines were once again varied, from a small Madison gas engine to the Ruston Hornsby AP. One to puzzle is the Hercules Gas Engine Model E. the 5hp engine was made in 1916 and is owned by Phil Marshall. The magneto is a complicated-sounding 'Webster Tri-Polar Oscillator'. Engines also included a Ruston Hornsby PB which was found under a pile of old pallets, a PB 9, a Lister D, a winnowing machine, and my Enfield. The Enfield is now running on home brewed 'Russian petrol', made of ½ pint paraffin, two petrol-cap measures of engine oil, and a gallon of petrol, lowering the octane rating, and producing Second World War style petrol. Our Chairman Brian Baker had brought his Ruston Hornsby PB9, because, he said, 'it never lets me down' (famous last words!). Of course obeying Murphy's Law, the engine refused to run. Whilst Brian had given up and walked away out of sight, a group of club members examined the engine, and to Brian's surprise when he returned had managed to get it going for him. A real example of club members helping out another member in distress, just a pity it doesn't happen more often. An interesting variation on the engines is the winnowing machine owned by Fred Biggs. It was built by T Petherbridge of Warminster, who ceased trading in 1860, and so the machine must date before this time. used to separate oats, barley or other grains from dust, leaves and rat dropping, it was displayed with a literary extract. The short passage on the exhibit board, from 'The Life and Death of the Mayor of Casterbridge' by Thomas Hardy, describes the heroine turning the handle of a nearby winnowing machine, and a cloud of husks covering her dress, an interesting way of tying in the machine with it's time. The museum opened at about 2.00, and WSEC members could gain free entry. The museum has many attractions, and covers two floors, the upstairs exhibits being changed every few months. The museum is active in loaning exhibits to other museums, and loaning from other museums all over the country, and so the exhibits are always changing. The museum has reconstructions of a turn of the century miner's house, schoolroom, shop, and blacksmith's and carpenters workshops. The carpenter was expected to be a proficient barrel maker, wheelwright, and funeral director. One end of the museum is given over to an excellent mining exhibition. A reconstruction of a mineshaft leads into the 'fossils of the coal measures', the miners tools, and of course, the coal they were digging for. Continuing upstairs, there were exhibits of John Wesley and other local preacher's letters and documents, pigeon racing, Nelson and HMS Victory displays, and the cabinet of curiosities, which contained, among many others which were unlabelled, an amputation saw and gout stool. This event was once more a success, especially as all members could now view the museums extensive collection for free.

JONATHON HOCKEDY

WSEC JUNIOR REPORTER

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

FOR SALE Lister CS 14hp Twin. 1932. On skids. With cooling tank. Running order. £200 o.n.o. Huxtable 2 furrow plough. Made in Barnstable. In need of restoration. Open to offers. For details ring Tim on 01884-277470. Cullompton Devon.

FOR SALE 1933 Shaft Drive Lister 'D'. 2hp. On Oak Trolley £110. 1946 Bamford EG1. 1 ½ hp. On steerable trolley. £150. Petter A1. 1 ½ hp. On skids. Good working order. £50. For details ring Percy on 01373 812461.

WANTED 10cwt or 1 ton trolley for moving pulley block on RSJ, or even a scissor clip to suit a 5 inch beam. Ring Gerald on 01934 852670 if you can help.