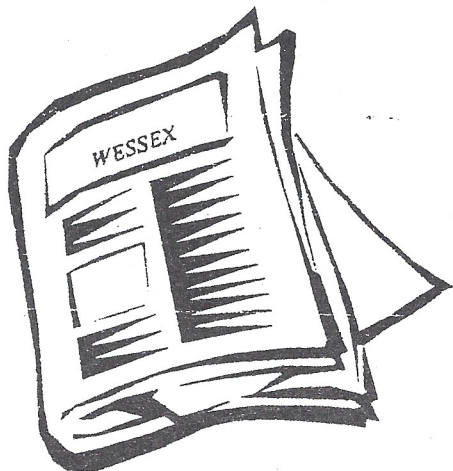


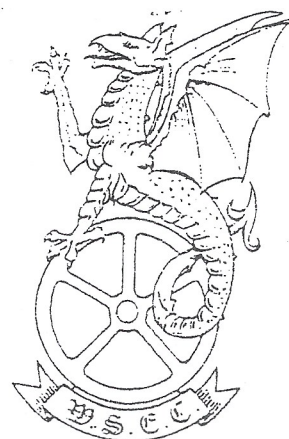
JUNE 2006

# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**



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## **NEWSLETTER**



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### **EDITORIAL**

In a recent newsletter I asked how many members would like to receive their newsletter each month by e-mail instead of by post. We were expecting quite a few members to respond to this enquiry as a large number of people now have access to a computer. We could not have been more wrong. Only one member replied, wishing to have his newsletter sent by e-mail, so much for the new age of technology. This idea is now dead and buried. I also asked for members to submit ideas to celebrate the club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Guess what? I only had one suggestion in answer to my request, and that was from one of our committee members. I sometimes wonder if these newsletters really do get distributed to the members as any feedback is zero.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The May meeting at the Old Down Inn saw an evening's entertainment of members photographs shown on the club epidiascope. The subjects were very varied, from rallies and crank-ups in the past to photos of retrieving the Cubit car from the depths of a jungle of undergrowth that was the subject of a very interesting article by Michael Jennings a couple of months ago. Our secretary Arthur judged which member had brought the most interesting photo's to show, this was won by Michael Jennings who received a bottle of wine. Arthur also gave a prize to Oliver Baker for the photo's he brought along, and he received a model car for the best Junior member. This year we introduced an extra event to our calendar, an evening crank-up at the Old Down Inn. This was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, which turned out to be a glorious hot summer evening. We had quite a good selection of various engines on display, together with a couple of motorcycles, including Robins immaculate BSA Gold Flash, and two vintage cars. Ed and Maxine from the Old Down Inn really done us proud, they had taken down the gates from the yard, brushed it up, installed a line of garden benches, set up a barbeque, and even had Marston Pedigree real ale on sale at only £1-50 per pt. The barbeque was doing a roaring trade with hot-dogs and burgers, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. This was finished off with a very good raffle as usual, and thanks to Diane a good sum of money was raised for club funds. I think this will definitely have to be an annual event. A workforce from the committee are this week going to Clutton to erect the large signs that we put up on the main road to advertise the rally, yes it's that time already. I'm sure that I can rely on a workforce turning up at the rally field to set it up as we did last year, details will be in next months newsletter.

**B.J.B.**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

The club would like to welcome the following new members. We hope your membership with us will be a long and happy one. Mr Malcolm Perry from Bleadon. Mr and Mrs A Sutherland from Yate. Mr and Mrs G Davies from Glastonbury.

**<<<<<<<<<<<< I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT >>>>>>>>>>>>**

Do you find yourself, like me, saying almost every day – I don't understand it! As I read the newspapers, confusion settles on me, and if there was someone to ask most of the time they would not have a satisfactory answer. There have been lots of demonstrations and column inches printed about the closure of many of our community hospitals. Now the papers turn to statistics about the aging baby-boomers and how are they going to be looked after in the coming years. Surely the community hospitals were mainly used by the older generations – except, I hasten to add, the maternity units! I don't understand it. When we were young, houses and cottages had large gardens, but there were no garden centres. Seeds were purchased and cuttings were taken and exchanged between gardeners. Plots were well cultivated and productive. Now gardens are very small, sometimes just a patio, and yet there are very many large garden centres all with huge stocks of plants, shrubs and trees. Around Easter time each year, if you can find a space in the garden centre car park you can watch trolley loads of plants being crammed into car boots. Where do all these plants go each year? I don't understand it. Wherever you go there is someone talking on their mobile phone. What do they all find to talk about that's so urgent it will not wait until they meet, or use a land line. While travelling on a bus recently there was a general buzz of conversation when someone's mobile phone rang, or rather played a tune! Then there was silence, apart from a one sided conversation presumably everyone was listening to the trivia which followed. Mobile phones can be very valuable when urgent contact is necessary – but constant use:- I don't understand it. When we went to the Nunney Catch Crank-Up with our grandson Matthew, he noticed that some of the generators on the engines were generating DC, but one stated that it was generating AC. What's the difference, was the question asked! I don't understand it, but luckily help was at hand. Thanks to Eric Gay who took the trouble to explain and gave Matthew a diagram, which he proudly took home to his family. So that is one less confusion for me to cope with, but I am sure there will be more coming to light.

MARGARET SIMMONS

**<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< CLUBS 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**

Strictly speaking the club's 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary was this year, 2006, because the very first meeting was in September 1776 in a private house in Chew Magna. But because 1977 was the first full year of the club, also because it was early 1977 when the meetings started at the Old Down Inn the committee has decided to celebrate 2007 as the anniversary year. I have already asked for suggestions to mark this special milestone in the clubs history, but so far without any success. So if any of you can come up with any ideas please let me know. Whatever happens I'm sure the committee will come up with something.

**\*\*\*\*\* SUPERNATURAL OR SUPER CLEAN >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**

A hospital in the USA realised that in one of their beds in the intensive care ward several patients had died around 11 am on Sunday morning. Very puzzled they assembled a team of international experts to investigate this strange phenomena. To their astonishment at 11am on Sunday morning the janitor arrived, he removed the plugs that were connected to the vital equipment, to use the point for his cleaner. When he had finished, he replaced the plugs and went on his way, leaving possible disaster behind!

**MARGARET SIMMONS**

### A USEFUL PIECE OF INFORMATION FROM THE BOTTOM OF A BOX

A couple of months ago I bought some boxes of engine bits. These were brought home and placed in the corner of the garage until I found time to go through them and sort out what I had actually bought. In one of the boxes was a nice brand new 18mm spark plug, Champion '7' still in its original box and wrappings. When I opened the box there was a note inside which reads:- IMPORTANT the spark gap on this plug is set at .022", which is the correct setting for coil ignition. When used with magneto set at .018". CHAMPION SPARK PLUG COMPANY LTD. Feltham, Middlesex, England. I am sure that most people do realise that magneto plug settings should be smaller than coil ignition, but here it is straight from the manufacturer!!.

GERALD ATHERTON.

## A GRAND DAY OUT

Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> June once again we saw this excellent 26<sup>th</sup> mini rally held in the beautiful village of Tatworth which is situated almost on the Dorset-Devon-Somerset border.

For over two decades this event has been organised and run by Mo Duke and helpers and as many of you know last year he decided to retire and hand over his past duties to his son Mike and Ray Culverwell plus tractor steward Malcolm Ousley.

As exhibitors arrived to a friendly welcome, they were directed to the allocated engine pens all neatly set up on the village playing fields. This year we took our B.W. & C Works 1½ hp Victoria which performed well for the first two hours and then led me a bit of a dance, my efforts to locate the fault proved great entertainment for three club members who even brought their chairs to the rope to watch me suffer in the heat of the day, and they had a lot of useful suggestions !!!!! some of which I cannot mention here, I won't even mention their names, except two were from the Basingstoke area and one from Ashcott. I shall be watching their exhibits with a very close eye in the future, their turn will come.! This event always attracts many unusual engines that one doesn't see out too often.

At the lower end of the playing fields a car boot took place and a long line of stalls exhibited many craft displays, plant and cake stalls, and old artefacts that would jog our memory as to when we used them in earnest. The sports pavilion did a good job in supplying refreshments and the ice cream van had customers all day long. A lot of Wessex members exhibited here many travelling long distances and bringing quite large heavy engines. One fine example was a large Blackstone owned by David Upton. Around mid afternoon assisted by Mo and his wife Glad the raffle took place and many ticket holders went home with nice draw prizes, well done to Mike, Ray and Malcolm and all other helpers who for us exhibitors made this event such an enjoyable day.

## Robin

PS - The next Tatworth Mini Rally date will be Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2007. Entry forms are out already and available from Mike Duke 23 Linkhay Orchard, South Chard, Somerset TA20 2QR Telephone 01460/22187 Tractors:- Malcolm Ousley, Barn Fields, Parrocks Lane, Tatworth, Somerset. Tel:- after 7pm 01460/220817

**<<<<<<<<<<<< EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY >>>>>>>>>>>>**

**SATURDAY – SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY** West Somerset Vintage Show, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton. Ring 01823 433928 for details

**SATURDAY – SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> JULY** Sedgemoor Rally. Ring 01823 443788 for details.

**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY** Engines wanted at Croscombe Fun Day. Croscombe, between Shepton Mallet and Wells. For further details ring 01749 342671.

**FRIDAY to SUNDAY. 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> JULY.** Somerset Steam Rally Langport. Tel 01749 841041.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> JULY.** Portland Steam and Vintage Show, Portland. Ring 01305 822728.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY.** Netley Marsh Steam Fair. Ring 023 8086 7882.

**MONDAY JULY 31<sup>st</sup>**. WSEC Crank – Up at the Court Hotel Chilcompton. Lets have a good turn out of engines etc. A prize for the most unusual engine exhibited, also a prize for the best restored engine, who knows you may win. The usual raffle will take place, prizes will be appreciated.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.** The WSEC Annual Rally at Clutton. Barbeque on the Saturday evening, with free beer and cider, plus the usual grand raffle, an auction on the Sunday morning will take place for members to convert their surplus goods into hard cash, just be there.

## <<<<<<<<< MEMBERS NEWS >>>>>>>>>>

The club would like to wish a very happy birthday to Mary Butler who celebrates her birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. Many happy returns of the day from all the members.

Both Rob Armstrong and his wife Francis have been unwell recently and Francis has to go into hospital for an operation. We wish you both all the best and hope you have a speedy recovery.

It is good to see Edward Carp back rallying and attending the speedway that he and Gloria enjoys so much after his recent surgery and illness.

<<<<<<<<<< THE MARKET PLACE >>>>>>>>>>>>

**WANTED** flat pulley. 5" - 6" diameter, for 2" shaft. If you can help please ring Bryan on 01749 850302.

**WANTED** Piston 4 1/2 " diameter, rings, con-rod etc, for Lister B .Please ring Gerald on 01934 852670.

**FOR SALE** Trailer. 5ft x 3ft x 1ft 3ins deep. 8" hubs, 16" wheels. Jockey wheel, spare wheel, lighting board, drop tail board, steel frame with wood panels. Good condition. £80 o.v.n.o. Ring Tony on 01373 464231. Frome area.

**FOR SALE** 1923 LISTER 5hp "L". On trolley. Good condition £300. Atco Motor Mower £30. Old Allen Motor Scythe. £40. Petrol Strimmer, needs attention, no spark £30. Two ladies derailleur bikes £20 the two. Also spare engine for Allen Scythe. For further details ring Roger on 01761 452565. Clutton area.

**FOR SALE** Lister "A" and Lister "B". Both on steerable trolleys, painted and ready to rally. £250 each. For further details ring Rob on 01672 851866 (evenings) Pewsey area.

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<<<<<<<<<< MORE DIARY DATES >>>>>>>>>>

**SUNDAY JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>** Vintage Rally and Country Fayre. Frog Lane Farm, Woodside Road, Coalpit Heath, Nr Bristol. For details ring 01454 417730.

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>** Vintage Gathering and Tractor Run. Lillypool Farm, Shiphham Hill, Shiphham. For details ring 01934 743994.

<<<<< WANTED >>>>> <<<<< WANTED >>>>> WANTED >>>>>

I am getting very short of material for the newsletter. With so many events happening at this time of the year I'm sure some members could put pen to paper and tell the rest of us about them. Also any news of members, birthdays etc all helps to make the newsletter more interesting.

\*\*\*\*\* HEARD IN THE BAR \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* HEARD IN THE BAR \*\*\*\*\*

A husband was in the kitchen wielding a fly swatter, the wife came in and asked – how many have you caught? Five he replied, three Males and two females! Intrigued she asked – how do you know which is which? Simple he replied, the three males were on the beer can, and the two females were on the phone.