

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1985

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

FORTHCOMING EVENT - Blagdon Reservoir Steam Pumping Engines, April 29th.

This visit will take the place of the usual monthly meeting at the Old Down Inn and we shall meet at the Pumping Station at the dam of the Yeo Reservoir (this is the 'blunt end') at about 7.30 p.m. for an 8.00 p.m. start. After a conducted tour we hope to all adjourn to a nearby pub yet to be nominated.

The Pumping Station was built at the turn of the century and pumping commenced in 1904. Originally, there were four engines, three in constant use and the other on standby; with a chimney stack 130 ft. high. Coal was delivered on the branch railway line built for the reservoir construction into a siding right up to the boiler house. The engines were compound beam engines built by Glenfield & Kennedy of Kilmarnock and worked up to 1949, two only now remain and pumping is by electric remote control pumps. One remaining engine is driven for demonstration purposes by electric motor.

It is hoped that we get a full attendance of members, we will be the first party around the pumping station under the new 1985 scheme and it should prove most interesting.

Eric Brain

OVERHEARD in the Ladies Loo.....'Cook in a Caravan? Not b....y likely, he makes do with tinned food or no food at all', AND..... 'Why do I come?, he's got the car, hasn't he?. What would I do at home with the kids?', AND..... 'The heavy horses make all this more bearable, don't they?'.

STOLEN

We have a report of a '75 year old' Lister pumping set stolen from a shed in a field at Norton St.Philip, near Bath. It weighs some 3 hundred weight and was carried across a field so two or three people must have been involved. Any member being offered an engine answering this description would be advised to contact his local police station.

UPDATED!

Seen advertised at a farm sale in January....'Bristol Victoria Oil Engine 26875 BHP...!!!' What a Whopper!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, February 25th 1985

The eighth AGM was opened by the President, Tom Randall, who asked for the minutes of the last AGM to be read, after which they were approved and signed. There were no matter arising and so the President delivered his speech. In this he thanked the Committee for their work in organising a varied and interesting year of events and he was pleased to see from the new programme cards that the next year looked to be as good. This included the Club Rally which this year is to be held at Longleat in conjunction with Wiltshire Fire Brigade. The monthly Newsletter was interesting and informative and it was encouraging to see new names contributing articles. The winner of the Newsletter articles competition for 1984 was Bill Coombs with his article 'My first years rallying', and the President presented him with his prize.

Tom Randall then called upon the Chairman, Ian Skuse, to present his report. In this Ian reiterated Tom's comments and thanked the Committee for their work and support. Special mention was made of those members retiring this year. Donations to CLIC had once again surpassed all expectations, much of which was due to Tony Jones, Roy and Ivor Cox. Ian concluded by saying how much he had enjoyed the three years and by wishing everyone a safe and happy rally season.

2.

The president thanked the Chairman for his hard work over the past three years and presented him with a book 'Engines', in search of power', by John Day, which had been specially inscribed for the occasion. For once in his life Ian was speechless and promptly sat down to read his new acquisition.

The President then asked Treasurer, Jackie Lambert, to present her report. She guided us through the previously distributed balance sheets and concluded by showing us that the Club had a healthy credit balance of £946. This was mainly due to successful fund raising throughout the year, and Herbie Gane was to be congratulated on his excellent raffles. The 1985 Committee were elected as follows:

Chairman, Robin Lambert; Vice-Chairman, Brian Munt; Secretary, Jane Cannon;
Treasurer, Jackie Lambert; Committee Members: Michael Cannon, Herbie Gane, Ian Skuse,
Bob Hallam, Claude Lowther, Bill Coombes, Derek Watts, Brian Verrall, Eric Gay.

Any Other Business. The Committee was asked from the floor whether the Club was liable to tax. This was quickly answered by saying we were not. The President concluded the meeting by thanking our hosts at the Old Down Inn, Penny and Gordon, and presented them with a gift in appreciation of their hospitality. The evening ended with a raffle, the four prize winners were; 1 dozen eggs, Mrs. Watts; flask, Derek Watts; plant, Peter Willan; chocolates, Derek Maybee.

Jane Cannon

THE ROY PADY FILMSHOW - The January Meeting (2)

Following the Editor's own report of the January Monthly Meeting, hurriedly put together in order to give four complete pages in the February Newsletter due to lack of forthcoming material from the members we have received the following report of the same meeting.

The January meeting took place at the Old Down Inn and as this was the first meeting of 1985 it was pleasing to see so many members present and also so many prospective members; possibly this was due more to the scheduled entertainment than for the fact that the memberships were due for renewal!

The evening commenced with a few words from Ian who ably introduced Roy from Axminster, Devon who came to show us films he had made at rallies, tractor pulling, ploughing matches, restoration work and some of an ornithological nature. The first film entitled 'This is London' was a Rally in Battersea Park, with an account of the Vintage Commercial Vehicle run to Brighton, a trip up the Thames and Trooping the Colour.

During the interval Herbie held the monthly draw; first prize, a bottle of sherry going to Henry Esain; second prize, a writing set, Hazel Getrom; third prize, a tape measure, Jeremy Adams; and a mystery prize to Tony Andrews (still a mystery to us as well....! Ed.).

The evening continued with a film of a mercenary 'Festival of Transport' in Somerset, special attention was given to Tractor Pulling; followed by a light-hearted look at the village of East Coker called 'You'll never see a farmer on a Bike'. Carrying on the agricultural theme, ploughing, both vintage and modern were seen next, followed by some wildlife on the Hayle Estuary. The evenings entertainment finished with a lesson on ornithology with a difference.....(daren't put into print what the original manuscript reads...Ed.)... which, judging by some of the members comments started a rush for cine cameras and binoculars next day.

Finally, 'Cindy' had a lesson in engine restoration which turned out to be yet another 'bird' story revealing itself to be a very popular there for Club evening meetings. The meeting ended around 10.30 p.m.

Brian Verrall

Editor's Note.....Stuart Ashman, self confessed 'Cindy' fan tells us that he actually **FORGOT** this meeting thus proving that ornithology is a 'National' pastime!

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Chairman	Robin Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Tel.63526
Treasurer	Jackie Lambert, (as above)
Secretary	Jane Cannon, 19 Eagle Rd., Batheaston, Bath. Tel Bath 859536
Post Officer	Claude Lowther, Garthside, Wells Rd., Hallatrow, Nr.Bristol. Tel. Temple Cloud 52714
Newsletter Editor	Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr.Bristol, Tel.Temple Cloud 52633
Longleat Rally Sec'y	Diana Emery' Odstax', Wells Rd., Hallatrow, Nr.Bristol. Tel Temple Cloud 52939

CALEDONIAN CORNER

Andrew Mercer tells us:- The Border Vintage Agricultural Association hold their annual rally this year at Swan's Market, Newtown, St.Boswells and have managed to get the Royal Navy Apprentices

Display team doing the 'Climbing of the Mast'. There will be a special class for Lister Machinery; any of our members heading northwards for a holiday may be interested to take in a rally on the way. What is the date Andy? Commenting on Claude Lowther's letter in the January Newsletter, Andy says that the reason people do not attend the meetings is apathy. The BVAA have 170 members but only get 35 or so at a meeting; on these figures it seems that Claude is worrying unnecessarily!! Some BVAA just pay up and show no further interest, we have members like that as well; yours truly belongs to a Car Club and has attended two meetings only in some twelve years. Andy goes on to say how much he enjoys this Newsletter and that it keeps him in touch with the Club. He also enjoys our rallies, including the paper aeroplanes which seem to fly on cider! Well, Andy, that's a far cheaper fuel than your local brew! Andy was pleased to see well known local scenes on 'Treasure Hunt' on February 7th, 'wild Wessex country' he calls it, but I would have thought some of the closer-up shots(!) would have stirred his Scots blood more.

An Anecdote to please the new Vice-Chairman.....!

A commercial traveller having missed the train found himself with along wait in a remote Wessex village. He approached the ancient station porter, 'Got a cinema here, my man',

'No'

'A snooker hall or library'

'No'

'Good heavens, what do you do here in the evenings to amuse yourselves?'

'We goes down to Brian the Butcher - he had a new Sausage Machine.....'

With apologies to Meccano Magazine, November 1957, pp579.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Draycott Strawberry Fair, Saturday June 8th requires twelve engines. No entry forms but just contact Brian Verrall, 2 Northville Place, Lower North Street, Cheddar, Somerset. Tel. Cheddar 743460

West Dorset Vintage Tractor & Engine Club Rally at Gore Cross, Beaminster on the A3066, near Bridport. June 8th and 9th 1985. Details, forms, etc. from Mr. F.J. Butt, 153 St.Swithin's Road, Bridport, Dorset, before 10th May. SAE please.

2nd Nailsea Scouts, 1985 May Fair at the Scotch Horn Centre, Nailsea. Monday, 6th May. Entry forms from Mr. D.P. Smith, 22 The Bramleys, Nailsea, Tel. 852196.

11th Bristol Festival of Transport on Saturday and Sunday, August 17/18th 1985. As other years, the organisers ask you to enclose £1 to cover cost of postage instead of an SAE. Closing date July 1st, enquiries to B.A.Triggell, 32 Beaufort House, Strawbridge Road, Lawrence Hill, Bristol Tel. (0272)556276

VERY IMPORTANT WSEC EVENT. This is the 'South Bristol Rally' held at Bristol Docks near the Industrial Museum. This event never seems to get the support it deserves for a rally with a good atmosphere, a good setting, plenty of interested public, shops nearby to amuse the wife, the trip around the Museum to see the History of the Bristol Aero-engine - oh - and the stationary engines of course. Rally Date, Saturday and Sunday, 18/19th May 1985. Entry forms from Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Welton, Midsomer Norton, Bath. Tel 418926. Please enclose a SAE with your entry. Plenty of room overnight inside the museum with full security protection for your engine. If you haven't entered before, you will not be disappointed. Sponsored especially for **YOUR** Club by the Institute of Plant Engineers, South Bristol Technical College and the Industrial Museum.

Cotswold Oil Engine Preservation Society Rally at Smirril Farm Museum on the A.429 between Malmesbury and Kemble, Sunday May 5th and Monday May 6th. Details from Mrs. B. Cross, 'Pettersville', 2 Chelworth Road, Cricklade, Wilts. SAE please.

Wiltshire YFC Jubilee Show, Monday May 6th. Engine and Tractor exhibits welcomed and the rarer the better! Plaques available. Gerald Haines, YFC Offices, London Road, Devizes, Wilts. Tel. Devizes 2841, Malmesbury 840359.

Coleford Scouts Gala, Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May. Engine exhibits wanted for village show, contact Mr. M.A. Darville, 44 Farley Dell, Coleford, Nr. Bath. Somerset. Tel. Mells 812542.

International Air Tattoo, Engine Rally, at RAF Fairford, on July 13th and 14th under the auspices of the Cotswold Oil Engine Pres.Society.

September 7/8th. N.Somerset Group NVTEC Rally and Ploughing Match at Backwell Hill, Lulsgate, near Bristol. Details from Gerald Atherton, The Bungalow, Brinsea Lane, Congresbury, near Bristol.

WSEC Rally at Longleat. June 15/16th. Have **YOU** entered yet? 150 engines only. Priority will be given to those who undertake to rally on both days so hurry up, it may already be too late. Details etc. from Diana Emery, Temple Cloud (0761)52939. This will be the best Club Rally ever.

CLUB MEETINGS

April 29th

Visit to Blagdon Pumping Station at the Yeo Reservoir - see page 1

May 20th

'Crank-Up' at the Old Down Inn. Annual evening rally, this is not the **LAST** Monday in the month, pray for fine weather.

June 24th

'Guess the Object' - a Midsummer guessing show with prizes.

4.

July 29th
Aug.19th

Talk on Whitemetalling

Member's Evening, for members to bring along their slides, photos, cine, anything to join in a social evening - not the last Monday in the month.

Sept.30th

'Things in people's attics' a talk with illustrations

SERVICES

For one-off castings in most metals, try 'Novacast', Mr. Lovelock, Station Approach, Melksham, Wiltshire. Tel. 92-707466.

Lettering for Engines on Display, supply a full description and /or photograph of your engine, its personal history, manufacturing details, date, etc. Specify colour, size, material, anything you wish. Contact Robert Cooper, 82 Elmhurst Estate, Batheaston, Bath. Tel. 858536, Approx. cost £7.50. Cheques to 'Robert Cooper'. Delivery 3-4 weeks.

FOR SALE/WANTED

FOR SALE:

Lee Howl Pump needs restoration and a few simple new parts made, £25 ono. Alan Sweet, Tel.Pilton 586

FOR SALE:

Morris Ambulance, clear windows, low milage, excellent rallying van, £250 ono. Brian Palmer, 0643-821683

FOR SALE:

Ford Escort engine, 1100 cc, crossflow, in good condition and ready to fit. Tel. Dave Tallin, Frome 61369

FOR SALE:

Ruston Hornsby 2VWA Diesel, twin cylinder, air cooled, 26.5 BHP at 2100 rpm. Suit generator or narrowboat. Brand New! £400 ono. Phone Ian Marsh, at Bath University. Tel.61244, xtn.675

FOR SALE:

Lister D and Pump on trolley, restored. Offers to Mr. Jones, Flat 1, Hillside Flats, Culverhill, Frome (opposite the Beehive)

FOR SALE:

Petter AVI, 3 hp at 1000 rpm. Water cooled, in good w/o, 1952. £80 ono. Mr. R. Young, Royden House, South Street, Castle Cary, Som. Try Directory Enquiries as this a a new telephone number not allocated at time of going to print.

WINGS AND WHEELS

This mid-summer event will be held this year on Sunday 30th June at the Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet. Would all intending Stationary Engine entrants please note that the £1.50 entrance fee mentioned on the entry form does **NOT** apply to engine entrants. This has been verified by the Rally Secretary, Mr. R.J. Allsopp, Lyngfield, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Closing date, June 1st

SOMERSET RURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY

This newly formed preservation group will be holding a show called Countryside Cavalcade at that very popular venue the Royal Bath & West Showground on the 7/8th September. Details from Walt Cox, 22 Langport Road, Long Sutton, Langport. Tel. Langport 578. Plaques will be awarded but there will be **NO** judging.