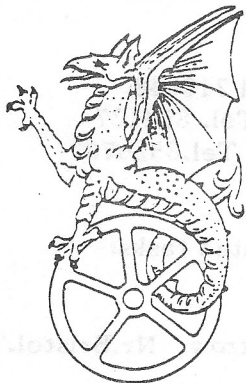


# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1988

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### \*\*\*\*\* THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - February 29th

The Clubroom at the Old Down Inn was packed with members old and new. We were very pleased to see a couple of 'semi-retired' members from the early years, Adrian Stride and former Treasurer, Stuart Ashman. Also a few members who are not usually regular monthly meeting attenders, Terry Heath, Reg. and Mary Butler and Dave Clack. The retiring committee took their 'hot-seats' with the rest of the floor at the other end of the room warmed by the fire.

Our President, Tom Randall opened the meeting and, once the minutes of the last AGM had been disposed of, carried on with his report. He commented that the WSEC was now well established and was something of which we should be proud. The year's calendar seems pretty full with, remarkably, seven of the ten evenings already filled having an 'engine' flavour about them. (Does this mean the scent of petrol and kerosene fumes?) The diversity of other topics show the many and varied interests of our Club members and the high attendance at most meetings is surely a sign of appreciation.

Tom then presented Michael Cannon with a gift as a "thank you" for the time and effort given to the Club during the past ten years. Gifts were also presented to our hosts Gordon and Penny, received by John the barman in their absence, and also to Jackie and Shirley, the untiring lady officers of the Club. (Thank you-Shirley). Tom closed by saying how much he looks forward to the next ten years of the Club. The chairman, Brian Munt, then gave a resume of last year's events; skittles, coach trips, crank-ups, etc. He highlighted the underground canal trip at Dudley, (the bit I didn't enjoy was being informed that there was 100ft of water under us in the caverns). He mentioned the Club evenings, little rallies, jumble and car-boot sales, and the Club Rally at Cheddar. Then came thanks for Eric, Sylvia, Claude and Marian - the Newsletter production team without whom you would not be now reading this article - and thanks too to Herb Gane for the fund raising he does so well and ably with his monthly raffles.

Jackie Lambert, the Treasurer gave her account of the healthy state of the Club's finances precise, efficient and totally confusing to me, a mere Secretary! Well done Jackie, keep it up.

Officers were then elected and, as there was no response to the President's call for any other business, the 1988 AGM was pronounced closed by Tom Randall. Herb's raffle was drawn; Bob Hallam won the chocs. (even though wife Jill had the toothache- he obviously had them all to himself!), Paul Martin won the torch (to help him find more engines in dark corners), and Trevor Payne won the wine.

A final swift drink, a brief chat and thus out into the cold Mendip night and head for home; summer evenings will soon be here now the AGM has passed.

Shirley Gale (Cold, tired and rushed off my feet)

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### 1988 COMMITTEE (plus other useful WSEC addresses)

President:	Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Welton, Midsomer Norton. Tel.M.S.N. 418926
Chairman:	Brian Munt, 2 Burfoote Gdns, Stockwood, Bristol. Tel. (0272)836214
Vice-Chairman:	Brian Verrall, 2 Norville Place, Lower North St., Cheddar. Tel. (0934)743460
Hon.Secretary:	Shirley Gale, 18 Church Lane, North Bradley, Trowbridge. Tel.Trowbridge 67095
Publicity Sec.:	Gerald Atherton, Rose Glen, Bristol Road, Churchill, Nr.Bristol. Tel 852670

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 Treasurer & Memb. Jackie Lambert, 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somerset. Tel. 63526  
 Secretary  
 General Bob Hallam, 11 Chalfont Close, Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel 66208  
 Committee: Derek Watts, 108 Spring Hill, Worle, Weston-s-Mare. Tel. W-s-M. 28875  
 Robin Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Som. Tel. 63526  
 Eric Gay, 21 Rutland Drive, Trowbridge. Tel. 4374  
 Phil Harris, Stoney Lane House, Cocklake, Wedmore, Som. Tel 712048  
 Jeremy Adams, 61 Upper Bloomfield Road, Odd Down, Bath. Tel. 834127  
 Hazel Getsom, Rose Glen, Bristol Road, Churchill, Nr. Bristol. Tel. 852670  
 Raffles Herb Gane, 45 Welsford Avenue, Wells, Som. Tel. 74402

The following are ex-officio but work closely with the Committee on their appointed tasks:-

Newsletter Editor: Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol. Tel. (0761) 52633  
 Distribution: Marian & Claude Lowther, Garthside, Wells Road, Hallatrow, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Temple Cloud (0761) 52714  
 Newsletter Typing Ivor & Sylvia Yeo, Chyventon, Smitham Hill, East Harptree. Tel. West Harptree and Printing 221604

The Newsletter Editor is always pleased (and thankful ..!) to receive any material for publication; any rally reports, adverts, diary dates, new finds, restorations, scandal, anything - PLEASE - before the end of the week following any monthly meeting for inclusion in the next month's Newsletter.

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#### PETTER 'M' TYPE LIFE HISTORY

I was born in 1925 at Yeovil, Somerset and duly christened an 'M-type Oil Engine; my birth certificate number being 3922. I cannot recall much of my early life, but I knew that I wouldn't grow larger than my allotted 1½ hp. All the other members of my family regarded me as odd as I was born with only one flywheel but I remember being packed off on a train, for my holidays I thought - to Ipswich. Some holiday! I arrived at Messrs. Reavell and Company where I was mounted up on a base and teamed up with a Reavell air-pump. This was to be the beginning of a long-lasting partnership. We were then sent back, fortunately, to Somerset to work. From 1940 onwards we were run-up a few hours a week to supply our big cousins, a pair of Paxman diesels, with starting air. This we continued to do, untiringly, until we were cast aside, redundant, in the summer of 1987. In December of the same year we were sold for scrap but our salvation was, in fact, the scrapman who decided to play Father Christmas. He phoned my present new owner who collected me on Christmas Eve. I wondered what was going to happen when he began to strip me down to my bare essentials but he checked my vital parts and pronounced me OK. I am now repainted and awaiting reassembly along with my lifetime colleague, the air-pump and base. I pray for a new life in the fresh air and have been promised a weekend out this summer at the Club Rally at Cheddar. Please come and see us, I only need a new oiler and bracket. (See Advertisement, next page)

Arthur and Sylvia Smith (Mickey and Minnie Mouse)

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#### CALEDONIAN CORNER

I was talking to our Newsletter Editor on the phone and the conversation got around to driving and 'motorway madness' in particular. This reminded me that there are other types of certifiable madness so there goes!

The Forth Valley Vintage Club which was formed this year with Bob Bathgate as chairman covers the Edinburgh area and there are a lot of very keen members. A number of them have had a mention in that 'Book of Words' - the Stationary Engine Magazine. Bob has a great collection of market garden feeder units and several engines. Hon. Secretary is Stephen Sandilands who is a Fowler engine registrar. This club held a Ploughing match on December 27th at Hillend Farm next to the artificial ski-slope. The rain commenced at around 7.30 am. I arrived at about 9.30 am when it was really pelting down. At the gate was a tractor with a chain and the field was a sea of mud ranging from a foot deep at the gate to a few inches further in. I went up a hard side road a bit and then drove through a gap in the hedge.

I was exhibiting old spanners and other hand-tools. I suppose I would not have been surprised if a submarine had appeared from the middle of the field. Some engines would not start, others just started and then stopped. Only a Norman T3000 and a Lister D made it to the end of the Day. Everyone needed a tow out including a Range Rover but its owner's excuse was that it was towing a trailer with a Fordson Country Mk. 1 on board.

On the way home, I noted that the water was coming up the drains instead of going down; I don't know how much rain fell that day but it was a hell of a lot...! Nevertheless, everyone at the rally enjoyed the day but I suppose the rain kept the moaners away!

At the meetings, the Club showed a video of the day and took a great delight in the showing the rain and mud - and some very candid shots of some of the club members.



3. There you are then Eric ... beats Bristol Docks AND Stourpaine....!

Andrew Mercer

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REPAIRING GEARS (Part 2)

Preparing the gears and making the tooth blank

Firstly, holding the gear in the vice, file away any remnants of the original tooth as far as possible until you are down to the core of the gear. Clean up the sides of the gear and apply marking blue if available to help show up your marking more clearly. Mark-out a parallel slot descending down into the core of the gear directly below the new tooth position. The depth of the slot should be proportional to the size of the tooth. A depth of 75% is a good guide.

Hacksaw down th inside of the slot markings and file away material to form the parallel sided slot. If your filing is as bad as mine, make a gauge from a piece of scrap metal and file the sides gently until the gauge just fits. Having formed the parallel slot, mark out the slot, mark out the slot sides for about a 5 degree taper (wide end at the bottom) and carefully form the dovetail slot. I prefer the above method to the 'both feet first' approach of filing the dovetail in one go as it's easier to file a slot to a gauge and then apply the taper sides afterwards.

Obtain a piece of scrap steel that will be wide enough to form a tooth from. The blank must be wider than the gearwheel and will be cut and filed to size after fitting both into place. Mark out the dovetail on both ends of the blank by scribing from the dovetail slot. Commence filing the bottom half of the blank to fit the slot; file first one side then the other to keep the dovetail peg central to the blank. Because the blank is deliberately longer than the gear width, you can file away at the front end until it just fits into the slot and then work back along the length of the blank until a snug fit is obtained. Mark the front of the blank with a centre-pop before starting so that you are reminded which end to work from. The ideal situation is to have the peg just slightly tapered from back to front along its length so that the last 20% of engagement is an interference fit requiring just a gentle tap with a hammer to jam it securely into place. (See figure attached).

Part three of four parts next month

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LOCAL HISTORY

During the coming year, I am hoping to prepare two articles for publication and am keen to locate further material. Firstly, I am interested in hearing from anyone with information about **CUTLER'S GREEN MOTOR WORKS, CHEWTON MENDIP**, which later became **MENDIP COMMERCIAL MOTORS, (C.W.HARRIS & CO.)**. I would like to hear of any photographs of the works and of their vehicles, any original advertising material, adverts in the local press and especially any stories, first, second or third hand, about the works, the vehicles and the people who worked there - anything, no matter how trivial it may seem.

Secondly, I am putting together a collection of photographs of working engines in North Somerset and would appreciate the loan for copying of any photographs of stationary and portable steam, gas, oil and petrol engines of pre-1939 manufacture and their original working environment. Modern photo's of engines still in situ are also needed, or knowledge of those that are accessible for photographing. All activities, mining, quarrying, pumping, agriculture and industrial activities will be covered. Full credit for all sources will be given and confidences respected.

I can be contacted at Club meetings, or most evenings at home, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath BA3 2TL. Tel.Midsomer Norton (0761)418926. All loaned material will be professionally copied and promptly returned personally. These projects are essentially on behalf of the the Radstock, Midsomer Norton & District Museum Society.

Tom Randall

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WANTED

Any information on Reavell & Co.Ltd., Petter 'correct pattern' oiler for M-type 1½ hp; also mounting bracket for same; flywheel for 1918 International M-type; starting handle and silencer for same. A. Smith, tel. Warminster 217377.

**Air Vessel for Lister Godwin pump.** Roger Pike, 13 Highfields Crescent, Chilcompton.Tel.Stratton-on-Fosse 233028

**BSA 120cc s/v engine** for my Howard rotovator, now becoming even more urgent than ever as gardening time has arrived and my back is feeling the strain...! Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge. Clutton.

FOR SALE

**Two Lister D-types**, R.H. and L.H. rotation, unrestored but one is a runner - £25 each; **Lister 5 hp M-type**, runner needs cooling tank - £60 (fuel tank still has original silver transfer); **Petter A1** in good but unrestored condition - £25; **Petter A1** suitable for spares only - £5. A. Smith. Tel.Warminster 217377

**Fairbanks Morse 6 hp**, open crank, in working order - £350; **3½ hp Lister Diesel engine** and 110 volt generator on wooden chassis in good working order. Open to offers. Tel. Frome 71467

#### 4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- April 3rd The National Vintage Tractor & Engine Club have chosen the Livestock Centre at Winford, near Bristol, as the start of it's annual Road Run, this year in aid of the Bristol Children's Hospital. There will be static displays, stationary engines, old lorries, vintage cars and possibly a couple of traction engines. Also a car boot sale (cars £5, stalls £10). Contact Ian Perrett, Tel.Wrington 862365 for details of this event which is held on Easter Sunday
- June 4 Bradford on Avon Hospital Fete
- June 25 Southwick & North Bradley Scouts Fete held at Southwick.  
Both these events would like stationary engine entries in aid of their respective worthy causes so if you would like to come along and give your support, just contact Tony Jones, 121 Marston Lane, Frome, Som. or Tel.Frome 65189 (no entry forms)
- June 25/26 Tatton Park Vintage Rally - a treat not to be missed by the serious engine enthusiast. Just off the M6 Knutsford junction 19 and a fabulous day-out even if you think it too far to take an engine. See 'Stationary Engine' magazine for details of entry.
- July 30/31 Rushmore Steam and Vintage Rally, Aldershot, Hants., An interesting Rally with plenty for everyone, just off the M3 Odiham junction but not as far away as it sounds. Entries close 12 May, so hurry and send a SAE for details to Patrick Knight, TCSPS Ltd., 10 Upper Rd., Aldershot, Hants GU11 3ET.
- July 31 Thurlstane Castle Vintage Rally. If any WSEC member is holidaying in Scotland in the Borders region, then a visit to this popular annual event is a must and Andrew Mercer will make you feel at home; probably even to lending you his kilt and sporran! If you can smuggle an engine through the border in your caravan then entries to Andrew Mercer, Whitslaid, Lauder, Berwickshire.
- Sept 3 Wellow (Nr Bath) Flower Show and Country Fair. If you prefer a smaller event, then you should enjoy this one. Weekend camping is provided and our members who attended last years event were well catered for. Brass plaques provided. Nice relaxing atmosphere in a delightful village. Contact Lois Gumm, (Show Steward) 'Windy Ridge' Wellow, Bath, Som. Tel. Coombe Down 835840.
- Sept 10/11 Yesterday's Farming, this year at Pucklington, Nr Ilminster, Som. Details with SAE from Brian Crudge, 22 Stoke Rd., Taunton, Som. Note entries close 30th June.

#### CLUB EVENTS

- April 25 Illustrated talk by Ray Earle on 'Model Engineering'
- May 14/15 Bristol Docks sponsored by the Western Section of the Institute of Plant Engineers for the WSEC at the Bristol Industrial Museum in the heart of the city's dockland heritage. Space is restricted to about thirty engines at this popular and interesting site which has plenty of attractions nearby for the rally-wife. (Leave your wallet at home ...!) Entries with SAE to Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Rd., Welton, Midsomer Norton, Som. Tel M-S-N 418926.
- May 23 This monthly meeting is NOT the last Monday in the month due to the Bank Holiday. However, we are fortunate to welcome once more Philip Thornton-Evison who as you all should know, is responsible for many of the photographs and articles in The Stationary Engine Magazine. Philip will be giving us an Engine Slide Show.
- June 18/19 Annual WSEC Rally, again this year at Cheddar, Somerset, on the football ground alongside the main A371 Wells Road. Entry forms from Mrs S. Gale, 18 Church Lane,Bradley, Trowbridge, Wilts. with Sae please. Tel Trowbridge 67095 for details.

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CONGRATULATIONS

.....to John and Diana Emery who celebrate their Silver Wedding at the beginning of April. There is no truth in the rumour that the Post Office are producing a special commemorative issue of stamps for the event! Best wishes from all the WSEC members.



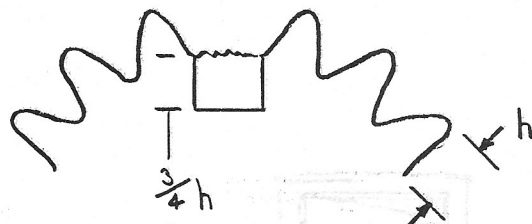


Fig1 Mark out slot below missing tooth.

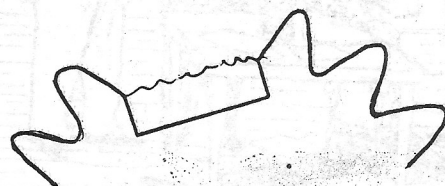


Fig2 Mark out wider slot for two missing teeth

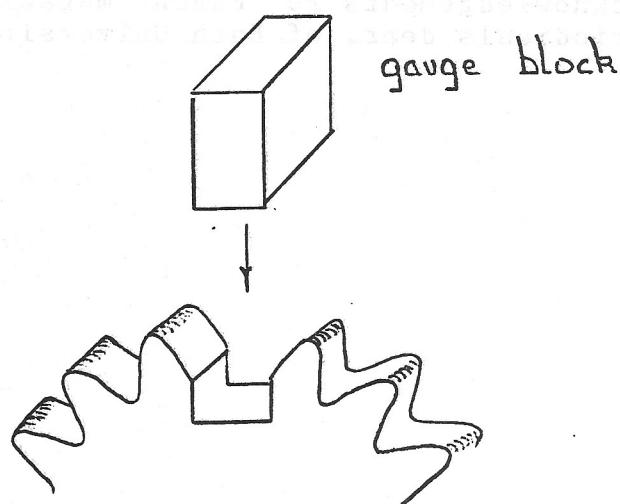


Fig3 Cut and file parallel slot testing with a gauge

In consideration of the fact that the Newsletter Editor has recently taken delivery of a NEW typewriter, this cartoon was recently dropped on his desk by a colleague.....



"We figure his nose got stuck in the keys, then he beat his brains out trying to type 'help'."

.....with acknowledgements to 'Punch' magazine....not to mention the periodicals dept. of Bath University Library!!