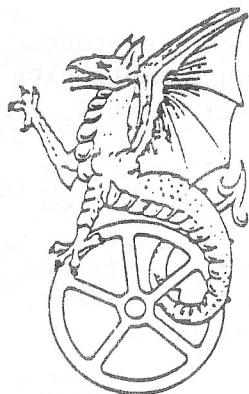


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1993.

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A WINTER'S TALE OR THE RECOVERY OF A CAMPBELL STATIONARY OIL ENGINE.

PART 1.

One of the advantages of a new job is the opportunity to seek out and meet new 'engine friends'. At one of the tea breaks the conversation got around to vintage cars, commercial vehicles and inevitably to engines. Ian as it turned out, owned a couple of Listers, a Petter 'M' and also a very unusual Aster lighting plant, which he was restoring. His girl friend and aide-de-camp Mark, also had a Wolseley WD which was unusual in being tank cooled. Ian also enjoyed country walking; a couple of years previously whilst an undergraduate he had strayed from the footpath and come across what he remembered as an old lamp start engine along with other precious bits and pieces in a dilapidated tin shed. The obvious first questions were "What sort was it?" and "Is it still there?" followed by "Where is it?" - all these were answered by the same silent grin!

After a week or so elapsed, Ian informed me that the engine was in fact still there; the shed had suffered a fire and quite a few bits had been dismantled. He had sought out the owner of the land and made a tentative low offer for the engine which had been readily accepted. The question was, would I mind accompanying Mark and himself to view the engine?, would I mind indeed, after making a pledge of 'non-disclosure', the two lads took me off one very frosty lunch hour in the middle of January to a long-derelect market garden on the outskirts of the city of Bath; down to the bottom of a valley, very overgrown with briars and deep in mud. In the shed surrounded with nettles and deep wood ash from the fire stood an almost complete engine of about 8hp coupled to a three-throw water pump and a large 57 volt DC generator. The pump like the engine was partially dismantled and pieces were strewn everywhere. Among the ash we found the bearing caps for the crankshaft, the starting lamp, and numerous other bits and pieces, some recognisable some not.

Quite remarkably, unharmed by the fire were two 45 gallon oil drums each half full of TVO, whilst outside attached to the back wall was a length of exhaust pipe and the cast iron earth silencer. Turning over the charred wooden cupboard we found a discoloured envelope bearing the name of the market garden in copper plate handwriting, inside were the original wiring diagrams and the installation layout for the Campbell 8HP engine and dated 1908. This confirmed what we had already guessed and proved that the engine had been on the same site for some 75 years. Subsequently, we found someone who remembered the engine working during the late 1960's so it had a good working life until some vandal had, sadly, started to dismantle it, probably burning down the shed in his passion of frustration.

It was decided that as the vandals had already struck, it would be best to get the engine away as soon as possible before further damage was done. However, Ian's home was in Kent, near Maidstone. The problem was not only to remove the engine, haul it through the briars and nettles and up the steep hillside but then to transport it to Kent from Bath. It was then decided that as the price was right, the engine was very collectable, the ground -being January was in a state of 'permafrost', we would make an attempt the following week. The generator itself was worth all the asking price.

TO BE CONTINUED.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Monday 22nd February, 1993.

The meeting was opened by retiring President Herb Gane, with apologies from Jackie and Robin Lambert (who 'had' to go on holiday) and Vic Walton.

After the minutes had been read Herb pointed out that on the constitution the insurance was still £1,000,000 not £2,000,000 as it should be and that there is not a clause mentioning the honorarium payment to the Treasurer and the Secretary. These two points will be duly corrected.

Chairman Brian Verrall welcomed everyone to the A.G.M. and reported the 1992 events on the whole had been happy and successful. The 1993 rally at Semington should see an auction and car boot sale as added attractions. He thanked everyone who helped during the year to the smooth running of club events and day to day running. Mary Butler, Margaret Appleby and Bill and Robin Lambert for the work on the newsletter, Herb Gane for his years as President, and we wish him well in the future, and also Paul Allen who this year retired from the committee.

Alan Carney 'volunteered' to read the Treasurers report in Jackie's absence and a very good job he made of it too, and no questions came from the floor about the report.

The President Herb Gane gave us the definition of the Wessex S.E.C.: as an association of people all united by some common interest, meeting periodically for shared activity. The W.S.E.C. is a special club and we should be proud to be a member. After thanking numerous helpers Herb introduced Eric Brain, a founder member, as the new President. Eric explained how a small group of people founded the W.S.E.C., which has evolved to the largest stationary engine club in Britain with contacts and friends worldwide.

Next came the presentations of flowers for Wendy, a book for Herb, fruit baskets for Mary and Marg, a tankard for Gordon, a goblet for Penny, our lady and landlord at the Old Down Inn. Eric then reminded us, as every past President has - and so must he, that safety must always be uppermost in our minds. The election of officers came next and there is a list of all committee members, their addresses and telephone numbers at the back of this newsletter. In AOB Brian Baker commented that throughout the year the committee get very little feed back or ideas from Club members. So now that you have all the names and addresses - put your pen to paper and lets hear from you all!!!

The President Eric Brain thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.
SHIRLEY GALE.

As Shirley compiled the AGM report and has now retired as club Secretary it is fitting to remember all the hard work she has put into the job over many years. At committee meetings she was almost a 'motherly' figure to all who sat around the table and her sense of humour could always be relied on to brighten things up. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her around the rallies. Shirley's position has been filled by Ann Carney who will be known to many club members for her support of club nights and help at our rallies. Her husband Alan is also a committee member. Also 'Our Herbie' has passed his hat on to Eric and we now have a new club President. Best wishes to Herb, who I know will still take a keen interest in club activities. Welcome to Eric in his new role, how nice that a founder member should attain the office of President, surely a reflection of all the support he has given over many years. Also welcome to Gerald Atherton who is no stranger to many club members having once before held this post and was a much valued committee member.
ED.

We extend a warm welcome to NEW CLUB MEMBERS - Philip Thornton-Evison from Wantage, Peter Harris of Calne, David Kyte of Rowde, Devizes and Mr. & Mrs. R. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. W. Smith and Mr. & Mrs. F.G. Whittal all of Hereford.

WELLOW FLOWER SHOW & COUNTRY FAIR - SATURDAY 4TH SEPT.
from 2pm to 6pm.

A very popular event set in the village of Wellow Nr. Bath with something to interest everyone - about 20 stationary engines are required you will be made very welcome. Brass Plaques will be given to all exhibitors. The engine section at this event is run under the WSEC control, our Club is held with high regard by the Show Organisers and the interest is so great we have been part of the Flower Show for some time. So please come along; you will have a very enjoyable afternoon out. If you are interested please contact Steve Routley on 0934 822988.

STOP PRESS FULL QUART CRANK-UP - September 26th. Would last year's exhibitors who wish to attend this year PLEASE CONTACT Roy Cox. Tel 0934 419826.

CLUB MEETING Monday - 26th April - Morris Lubricants.

EVENTS DIARY FOR 1993.

- APRIL 24/25th - Creech St. Michael Rally. St./Engines - Sec. Jane Stuckey, 6 Creechwood Terrace, Creech St. Michael, Taunton, TA3 5EE. Tel 0823 443877.
- MAY 1/2/3rd - Abbey Hill Steam Rally, Yeovil Showground. St/Engines - W.A. Bowles, 30 Font Villas, West Coker, Yeovil. BA22 9BY. Tel 0935 863603.
- MAY 8th (Sat) - Annual Vintage Collective Spring Sale, Thruxton Circuit, Nr. Andover, Hants. Contact Evans and Partridge - 0264 810702.
- MAY 8th (Sat) - West Wilts Society of Model Engineers Exhibition, Warminster Assembly Rooms.
- MAY 9th - Hazelbury Bryan Rally. Contact Dickie Plummer 0258 817597.
- MAY 23rd (Sun) - Mendip's Tour, Collett Park, Shepton Mallet. - Cars, Motor cycles, St/Engines etc. Entry Forms from Mr. L. Trevorrow, Glencairn, 51 Waterloo Road, Shepton Mallet. Tel 0749 345347.
- MAY 29/30/31st - Selwood Steam & Vintage Rally, Longleat House, Nr. Warminster, Wilts. St/engines - Mr. S. Francis, 45 Stonebridge Drive, Frome, Som. BA11 2TW.
- MAY 30/31st - Cricket St. Thomas Rally. Contact - Special Events Office, 21 Rolle, Street, Exmouth, Devon. EX8 1HA or Tel 0395 273724.
- JUNE 5/6th - Lister Petter Rally at Nibley House Farm, Nr. Dursley, Glos. St/engines - Mrs. J. Wytchard, 14 The Street, North Nibley, Dursley. Tel 0453 546024.
- JUNE 12th - Bradford on Avon Hospital Fete at 2.00pm (plaque, cup of tea and cakes provided). Contact Tony Jones on 0373 465189 after 7.00pm or write to 121 Marston Lane, Frome, Somerset. BA11 4DW.
- JUNE 13th - Somerset Vintage Farming Society Rally at the Junction 21 - M5 on the A370 at Hewish - Bristol to Weston Road. St/engines - Mr. I.J. Hawkins, 46 Tunstall Close, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. BS9 1HR. Tel 0272 686304.
- JUNE 12/13th - West Dorset Vintage Tractor & Stationary Engine Rally, Gore Cross, Bridport. Enquiries to the Secretary, Listers, 2 Gatcombe Close, Fordington Fields, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2AW. Tel 0305 265309.
- JUNE 19/20th - Wessex 16th Annual Rally, Semington, Nr. Trowbridge, Wilts. St/engines - E.J. Routley, 23 Sunnymead, Little London, Oakhill, Nr. Bath BA3 5AX. Tel 0749 840322.
- JUNE 19/20th - Bournemouth & Poole Preservation Club Rally - Sec. Len Maloy, 3 Nightingale Drive, Totton, Southampton. SO4 3UL. Tel 0703 666931.
- JUNE 26th - Toller Fun Day, Toller Porcorum. Contact Ben Pick (Old Swan).
- JUNE 26th - Grove School Summer Fete, Trowbridge. Contact Sue Allin on 0225 755161.
- JUNE 26th - Southwick & North Bradley Scout Group Annual Summer Fete. Contact Shirley Gale on 0225 767095.
- JUNE 26/27th - Tatton Park Rally, Knutsford, M6 Junction 10. St/engines - Mrs. M. Meadows, 3 Mitchell Avenue, Burtonwood, Warrington, Cheshire.
- JUNE 26/27th - Cornish Tractor Club Rally, Higher Pennace Farm, Scarcwater, St. Stephen, Cornwall. St/engines - Mr. R. Rowse, Pengover House, 78 Gover Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Tel 0726 63424.
- JULY 3/4th - Heddington & Stockley Rally. Enquiries to Mr. George Hyde, 34 Goatacre, Calne, Wilts. Tel 0249 76681.
- JULY 10/11th - The Wincanton Steam & Country Fair, Brains Farm, Moor Lane, Wincanton. Contact Tel 0963 34107.
- JULY 17/18th - Somerset Traction Engine Club Rally at Low Ham, Nr. Langport, Somerset. St/engines - Mr. B. Hitchings, 9 Crown Lane, Creech Heathfield, Taunton. TA5 5EU. Tel 0823 412469.
- JULY 23/24/25th - Netley Marsh Steam Engine Rally. St/engines - Mrs. Jean White, April Cottage, 3 Magazine Lane, Marchwood, Southampton. SO4 4UX.
- JULY 24/25th - Rushmoor Steam & Vintage Show, Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot, Hants. Contact - Mr. P. Knight, 10 Upper Elms Road, Aldershot, Hants. Tel 0252 317327.
- JULY 24/25th - National Vintage & Engine Club Rally, New Road Farm, East Huntspill, Somerset. St/engines - G. Weedon, 22 Grange Road, West Huntspill, Near Highbridge, Somerset. TA9 3SB. Tel 0278 781764.
- JULY 31/1 AUG - Woodlands Rally, Nr. Dartmouth, South Devon. Tel 08042/598 or 680.
- AUGUST 1ST - Mendip Crank-Up & Car Boot Sale. Usual venue at Mendip Garage. Contact: Bill Coombs, Belvedere Cottage, Gurney Slade, Nr. Bath BA3 4TG. Tel 0749 840868.

MORE DATES. TO FOLLOW NEXT MONTH.

(4)
1993 WSEC COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

TREASURER

PUBLICITY OFFICER

SAFETY OFFICER

Steve Routley
Vic Walton
Alan Carney
Brian Baker
Ted Routley
Roger Pike
Gerald Atherton

- Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol. BS18 4PE.
Tel: 0761 452633.
- Brian Verrall, 2 Norville Place, Lower North Street, Cheddar, BS27 3HH.
Tel: 0934 743460.
- Eric Gay, 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge. BA14 ONX.
Tel: 0225 754374.
- Ann Carney, 19 Beckhampton Road, Oldfield Park, Bath. BA2 3LL.
Tel: 0225 334565.
- Jackie Lambert, 15 Beechwood Avenue, Frome. BA11 2AX.
Tel: 0373 463526.
- Brian Reakes, 43 Queens Road, Keynsham, Bristol. BS18 2NQ.
Tel: 0272 868549.
- Roy Pointing, 6 Elm Way, Combe Rise, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5JX.
Tel: 0749 344222.
- 5 Quarry Road, Sandford, Nr. Bristol. BS19 5RN. Tel: 0934 822988.
- 31 Cranham Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol. BS10 5EF. Tel: 0272 622025.
- 19 Beckhampton Road, Oldfield Park, Bath. BA2 3LL. Tel: 0225 334565.
- 27 Wickham Way, Shepton Mallet. BA4 5YG. Tel: 0749 342671.
- 23 Sunnymead, Oakhill, Bath. BA3 5AX. Tel: 0749 840322.
- 13 Highfield Crescent, Chilcompton, Bath. BA3 4JX. Tel: 0761 233028.
- Rose Glen, Bristol Road, Churchill, Nr. Bristol. BS19 5NJ
Tel: 0934 852670.

FOR SALE

Bentall Pioneer 1½ - 2½hp, as found. £575.00

Bamford 2½hp with tulip hopper. Dismantled but very easy restoration, has Hills flick mag and was intermediate model between LT and Wico HT models. Lacks tin splash guard and plate. £350.00

Petter Junior 2½hp c 1919 with Bath oilers. Believed rebuilt about 1925 as hopper cooled with apple top hopper. Complete. As found partly dismantled £175.00

Ransomes MG2 Market garden crawler tractor. As found, last ran about 15 years ago. Generally in good order. £225.00

DC Generator 50/70 volts. 18 amps at 900 rpm. As found £60.00

Slate Switchboard with meters, as found, 0-25 amps and 0-80 volts. Variable and knife switches for dynamo and lights. Mercury switch requires attention £60.00

Lister A Type Reverse rotation industrial specification. As found, in good order. Full history known. Lacks exhaust. £115.00

For all the above please contact - Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath, BA3 2TL or Tel: 0761 418926.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME Lister 'A' type Hopper/Barrel c/w piston for 'Junior' (valves seized).
1 pair of 'A' type flywheels 3" wide for industrial model.
1 18" dia. pulley spoked 6" pulley face 1½ dia. shaft fittings.
Tel: Graham 0225 764579 (Trowbridge).

CLUB VISIT TO PRISTON MILL
Sunday 4th April

Priston Mill provides a unique insight into a flour milling technique which has changed little in over a thousand years. Once run by the monks of Bath Abbey it is now part of the Duchy of Cornwall estate. Driven by a spectacular water wheel, see the machinery still working and stoneground flour being produced.

MEET AT THE MILL AT 2PM for 2.30PM START OF THE TOUR. The cost will be £1.50 per person. Priston is approx. midway between Radstock and Bath. See map for exact location.

