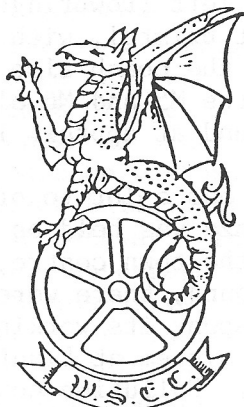


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1996



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EDITORIAL.

In a couple of weeks time it will be the first trip out with an engine this year, to Mells Daffodil Day Rally. Then at the end of the month it is the Creech St. Michael Rally, the rally season then starts in earnest. I would like to remind all members to be extra vigilant and safety conscious during the coming year, and if you visit any rally where you think the safety rules are being flouted, complain to the organisers. Also do not forget to take your insurance with you at all times, because all rallies require exhibitors to produce it. Another thing all exhibitors should do is display a card giving details of their engine, what is the use of showing an engine to the general public without telling them what it is.

Safe and enjoyable rallying for the coming year.

ED.

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

At the A.G.M. held at the Old Down Inn on Monday 26th February the list of Directors elected to run the Club on your behalf were as follows:-

CHAIRMAN - Brian Baker, VICE CHAIRMAN - Eric Gay
TREASURER - Jackie Lambert, SECRETARY - Anne Carney
THE MAIN COMMITTEE

Alan Carney, Vic Walton, Ray Baker, Roger Pike, Philip Caudle, Charlie Stevens.

If at any time, any member has a question or problem relating to Club business do not hesitate to contact any committee member who will do their utmost to resolve it. Also any member wanting anything to be put to the committee contact the Chairman who will put it on the Agenda for discussion.

The following members will also carry out these important tasks:-

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Brian Baker, SAFETY OFFICER - Vic Walton
ADVERTISING & PUBLICITY - Roger Pike, CLUB SHOP - Charlie Stevens.

The Committee are still one member short, if you would like to come on the Committee or know someone who would, please let the Chairman know and you could be co-opted on.

ENGINE RESTORATION.

In the Club Newsletter for last May, there was an advertisement of a grit blasting service from Bernie Richardson of West Coker Tel: 01935 862878. I recently took the filthy, rusty base frame from my Coventry Climax alternator set to him to be cleaned and primed, and was really pleased with the quality of the work done; I have now taken the cast iron radiator header tank to him to be done. I am also grateful to the 'S.E.' magazine - see the letters section of the March issue about regulators - and for the patient kindness with my queries of Bert Jenkins, who advertises there as the 'Club spares co-ordinator' in Carmarthen. I didn't find it at all easy at first to locate a supply of soft jointing material to make gaskets for the sump and the timing cover, but found a source of lovely 3mm thick oil and water resistant neoprene-bonded cork sheet for this purpose; I have some left over, and would be happy to sell this on to anyone needing it at cost (£1 per square foot) at the next club meeting.

ROB ARMSTRONG.

A TRIP OVER THE BRIDGE.

I was pleasantly surprised when the Wessex Model and Toy Collectors Club at Trowbridge, decided to have a coach trip to the Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza and Transport Festival on Sunday 7th May 1995, (sorry about the delay for this report). We left Trowbridge, the old bus station at 6 a.m. in a luxurious coach from 'Silver Night' at Bristol, with two drivers, with free soft drinks, tea, coffee etc. for the whole trip, the coach also had an inside loo hopefully to avoid too many stops. Progress was good on the M5 and M6 although we did have a few stops on route arriving at the North Wales Showground at approx. 11 a.m. We now had six hours to see as much as possible.

With the finest Victorian Promenade in the United Kingdom, Llandudno has a lot to offer should you want a weekend break, or longer. The Victorian Extravaganza was held on two sites, one being on the Showground and the second in the streets of the town centre, about one mile away. We started looking around the exhibits at the Showground, there were about 150 stationary engines - one being a 11 h.p. Crossley Type V07 that spent its working life driving a large compressor which powered a pneumatic sewage disposal system at Llanfairfechan. Sewage was fired out into the Menai Straits by air pressure. Pollution control comprises of swimming with your mouth shut. Other engines being a 1919 Emerson Brantingham of 2 h.p. exhibited by a man from Newcastle. A 1915 1.5 h.p. open crank Hercules. A very nice Scammell fire pump. A 1939 American washing machine converted to a generator during World War II. Also a 1905 Deyo Macey of 2 h.p. exhibited by a Mr. Heath from Yeovil, Somerset. Also lots of Listers, Petters, Ruston Hornsby's, Wolseley's, Amanco's, Novo's, Stuart Turner's and lots more. The next to look at was the vintage lorries, motor cycles, cars, tractors, buses, fire engines, all very well organised. We then got on the free bus shuttle between the two events, on arriving at Trinity Square in the town centre, this was a very large Vintage Street Fair with steamers, street organs, Scammells with generators, this was all very busy with lots of music and with lots to see. We walked back to the Showground along the sea front, this was a nice walk, dry but with a cold wind. We had time to look at the small displays. Collections of brass grease guns, oil cans, old hand tools, Clayton and Danarm chain saws. Pumps, lamps and lights, Dinky, Matchbox and Corgi models. Also to celebrate V.E. Day 60 R.A.F. hawk aircraft flew over the town in the shape of a 50.

Well all good things have to come to an end, we have a coach to catch with a five hour trip home. This was a first class day out with lots to see and well worth the long trip. A little something as requested by Brian Baker from the Wiltshire Moonraker.

BOB HALLAM.

SCAMMELL'S.

Thinking of doing something a little different in the way of Rallying, and not travelling too far, Andy said "Lets go and see the 5th Southern Scammell Road Run and Rally", held this year at Beltring in Kent. Beltring is just up the road from Royal Tunbridge Wells. So at 6.30 a.m. on Sunday 15th October, 1995 Andy and Shirley picked up Jill and myself, it was still dark (we must be mad) up through Warminster onto the A303 past Stonehenge, still dark but a few people looking at the Stones. Onto the M3. No traffic as we approached the M25, we stopped at a Little Chef for a good fry up, with lots of coffee. It's light now with the sun coming up - should be a good day. Onto the M25 southbound, I'm glad Andy's driving, then onto the M26 this is the first for me.

We arrived at our destination, The Whitbread Hop Farm at Beltring at approx. 10.30 a.m., parked the car, and into the rally field. If you ever get the chance to attend this event I can thoroughly recommend it for it is a gathering of Scammell enthusiasts and a few other commercial enthusiasts who all intend to have a good weekend together. There were no PVC window salesmen or car dealer salesmen or any of the other hustle and bustle of commercial traders. With this event being held at the Whitbread Hop Farm in Kent called the Garden of England, it's a long way to go for one day, but it makes a perfect venue.

We were able to see the three wheeled mechanical horse, and later Scarab, Townsman versions all very nicely restored, Pioneer breakdown vehicles, articulated tractors of the Chinese six form, that is two steering front axles and one driven rear axle. Also Scammell Crusaders, Scammell Showtrac's this is a special showman's vehicle (only 18 of these were built, and 17 have survived into preservation). Also Explorers, Highwaymen, Constructors all in pristine condition. The Whitbread complex itself includes a shop, restaurant and a very nice museum with old vehicles. Housed in stupendous traditional Kentish buildings, surrounded by green fields full of birds and animals.

Reluctantly we had to think about going home, we have had a fantastic day, with sunny weather. This has been a real Aladdins Cave of ancient mechanical wonders.

BY THE WILTSHIRE MOONRAKER.

I'M GLAD TO SEE THE "WILTSHIRE MOONRAKER" OUT OF RETIREMENT. ED.

**** CLUB NIGHT - 29TH JANUARY ****

At the January meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club a very interesting talk and slide show was given by one of our members, Mr. Tom Randall. This was on the history of the Mendip car that was manufactured at nearby Chewton Mendip. This business was started by Charles Wesley Harris who was a grocer at Bathway, Chewton Mendip in 1871 who with his wife Jane ran the shop as a grocer and baker until the 1880's when Charles would have been 24 years of age, a daughter was born to his wife in 1885, she was named Blanche. In 1889 was known as a spring maker and general smith with a business started near his shop. In five years he was building wagons and carts etc. It was 1897 before first mention was made of coach building taking place at Butlers Green which was but a short distance from the shop at Bathway. In 1899 the daughter Blanche married Mr. Percy Carter, at about that time an old photograph showed Mr. Harris standing in front of a car, next to it was a steam wagon which was driven by a Mr. Harris. Harris's first wagon was not produced by himself but was built by Hindley of Bourton, Dorset which was shown at the 1908 Bath & West Show, this had the registration number YDZ. Harris was at this time making manhole covers and signposts etc. Twenty-five men were employed by him at this time.

A horizontal steam engine employed at the works for driving machinery etc. was also built by E.S. Hindley of Bourton, Dorset. Letter heading a sales catalogue of 1910 showed that they were promoting the sales of the Mendip Box van of 25 cwt. The engines used at that time were bought from Aster & Co. of Wembley. Following this a motor lorry of 30 cwt and 50 cwt was produced also a Mendip steam wagon of 3 ton. In 1912 a van and bus service was started between Chewton Mendip and Bristol. In 1913 Charles Wesley Harris sold his business and moved to Weston-Super-Mare to set up a garage business, he died in 1936. The business was then bought by a Mr. Bateman-Hope who then proceeded to manufacture the Mendip light car, employing at that time 34 employees working under foreman Mr. George Thatcher. During the period between 1914-1918 3 cars were built, one of these was sold in Bristol and one was retained by Mr. Bateman-Hope. With the commencement of the great war the factory was switched over to the work of making grenade dischargers for fitting to rifles, also parts for aero engine carbs.

The Mendip car was again launched in 1919, an advertisement on March 8th of that year showed that a 11 h.p. model was priced at £255. Various engines were used including Mendip M4, Dorman and Coventry Simplex. At the end of 1921 Mr. Bateman-Hope died of appendicitis. The Thatcher family tried to raise the cash to buy the company but could not make it, so it was eventually sold by auction. The Thatcher family set up business at Atworth, Near Melksham, this factory was taken over by Dowty in 1951. In 1961 the very rusty remains of a Mendip car was discovered and then sold for six pounds, in 1971 it was bought by Mr. Piers Blakney Edwards of Cheddar, it changed hands again in 1988 at a price rumoured at £1,050. It is said that this car will be completely restored.

This was a very interesting evening, the talk being supported by excellent slides, well done and thank you Tom. Apologies for any inaccuracies I may have incurred.

During the interval a very excellent raffle took place with 8 prizes all being donated. Winners being Brace of pheasants - Tom Randall, another brace - Colin Baker, a basket of fruit - Eric Gay, a car rug - Jackie Lambert and four bottles to various members, making a useful donation to club funds.

RAY BAKER.

****YOU NEVER KNOW ****

I was pleased to see my old friend Bill Coombes at the A.G.M. on Monday night, but was shocked two days later to receive a phone call from Violet, his wife, to ask me to go and do an estimate to repair his van, as he had been involved in an accident. It transpired Bill was standing by his van outside his house, intending to fill his windscreen washer bottle, when his van was rammed in the back by a Ford Orion car, driven by a woman who only works a few hundred yards down the road in the local quarry. The van was pushed down the road and up onto Bill's next door neighbours wall. The open door of the van caught Bill and knocked him unconscious into the road, breaking his leg, injuring his elbow, which was pouring with blood and putting a lump on his head, to quote Bill's words "As big as a ducks egg". Bill is now out of hospital and recovering at home. His only worry is that the damaged elbow might prevent him 'swinging' a stationary engine over. His van by the way is a 'write off'. I'm sure all Wessex members including myself wish Bill a speedy recovery. As I said "You never know".

BRIAN J. BAKER.

**** DIARY OF EVENTS 1996 ****

- APRIL 8th - MELL'S DAFFODIL FESTIVAL. Contact Robin Lambert on Frome 01373 463526.
- APRIL 27th & 28th - CREECH ST. MICHAEL RALLY, TAUNTON. Contact Mrs. Jane Stuckley, 6 Creechwood Terrace, Creech St. Michael, Taunton, TA3 5EE. Tel: 01823 443877.
- APRIL 27th & 28th - THREE OAKFORDS RALLY, SHILLINGSTONE, DORSET. Tel: 01258 860121.
- APRIL 28th - WORLE CRANK UP, NUT TREE INN, EBDON ROAD, WORLE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Contact: Mrs. A.L. Gill on 01934 517322.
- MAY 4th - CHRUCHILL VILLAGE SPORTS GROUND. Contact: Brian Read on 01934 852766.
- MAY 4th/5th/6th - ABBEY HILL STEAM RALLY, YEOVIL SHOWGROUND. For stationary engines contact; Les Simpson on 01935 841426.
- MAY 11th - SPRING AUCTION, THRUXTON, Nr. ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE. Contact: Evans and Partridge on 01264 810702.
- MAY 11th & 12th - CASTLE COMBE RALLY, CASTLE COMBE RACING CIRCUIT. Tel: 01225 782889.
- MAY 19th - 16TH AMBERLEY STATIONARY WORKING DAY, AMBERLEY MUSEUM, SUSSEX. Entry forms from Ian Sampson, 58 Rusper Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4BL.
- MAY 25/26/27th - SELWOOD STEAM & VINTAGE RALLY, RODE BIRD GARDENS, RODE, NR. BATH. Contact: Mrs. P. Francis, 45 Stonebridge Drive, Frome, Somerset. BA11 2TW.
- MAY 26th & 27th - CARRINGTON TRACTION ENGINE RALLY, BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE. Tel: 01205 750395 for further details.
- JUNE 2nd - HUCKYDUCK CARNIVAL CLUB ANNUAL FUN DAY at HIGHBURY PLAYING FIELDS, COLEFORD, Nr. FROME. Stationary engines WANTED Contact: Dennis Hodges on 01373 812436.
- JUNE 8th - DRAYCOTT STRAWBERRY FAIR. Contact: Brian Verrall on 01934 743460.
- JUNE 8th & 9th - WEST DORSET VINTAGE TRACTOR & ENGINE RALLY, GORE CROSS, BRIDPORT. Tel: 01305 265309.
- JUNE 8th & 9th - WILTSHIRE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION GROUP RALLY at MARGREEN FARM, BURBAGE, NR. MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE. Tel: 01380 725371 evenings.
- JUNE 15th & 16th - WESSEX ANNUAL RALLY, SEMINGTON, Nr. TROWBRIDGE, WILTSHIRE. Stationary Engines Contact: Charlie Stevens on 01749 674819.
- JUNE 15th & 16th - LISTER PETTER RALLY, NIBLEY, DURSLEY, GLOS. Tel: 01453 546024.
- JUNE 15th & 16th - IVYBRIDGE VINTAGE RALLY, FILHAM PARK, IVYBRIDGE, DEVON. Details from Event Organiser, Grendon, Westover Lane, Ivybridge, Devon. BP21 9MJ.
- JUNE 22nd & 23rd - BEAR CROSS STEAM RALLY, OAKMEAD SCHOOL, DUCK LANE, BEAR CROSS, BOURNEMOUTH.
- JUNE 22nd & 23rd - LACKHAM VINTAGE AND AGRICULTURAL RALLY, LACKHAM COLLEGE, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE. Tel: 01249 443111.
- JUNE 22nd & 23rd - TATTON PARK RALLY, KNUTSFORD, CHESHIRE. Contact: Mrs. M. Meadows, 3 Mitchell Avenue, Burtonwood, Warrington, Cheshire.
- JUNE 29th & 30th - VINTAGE RALLY AND COUNTRY FAYRE, STATION ROAD, BROADCLYST.
- JUNE 29th & 30th - GOATACRE STEAM RALLY. Details from Mr. G. Hyde, 34 Goatacre, Calne, Wiltshire. Tel: 01249 760681.

THE MARKET PLACE.

- WANTED - Any information, especially on the Governor for Stover Type K H.P. 2, Speed 550. Please call John on 01761 471194 (evenings).
- FOR SALE - Bamford No. 2 rapid grinding mill £20. Ferguson plough £10. Ferguson T20 TVO/Petrol. Restored £450. Ferguson saw bench. good condition £100. Tel: Phil Marshall on 01761 471461. (Bath area).
- FOR SALE - 1976 Triumph Bonneville 750 cc. less than 8000 miles. Superb condition throughout. Two registered owners from new. A super machine for only £2,850 o.n.o. Tel: Tony on 01225 753913 or 761348.
- FOR SALE - Wolseley WD 8. 1949. Dismantled but complete, new piston rings, head gasket, valves, ground in also assembled. £50. Manus (fullwood) vacuum pump £15. Flat bed trailer 4'6" x 9'10", single axle, new floor, new tyres, new lighting board, v.g.c. £165. Tel: 01460 54266 (evenings).
- FOR SALE - Lister 'B' 3½ h.p., tank cooled on trolley, complete. Open to sensible offers. Tel: 01935 28216 (daytime) (Yeovil).

THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO SENT STAMPS TO OUR TREASURER, JACKIE, THEY WILL BE PUT

TO GOOD USE.

EDITOR.