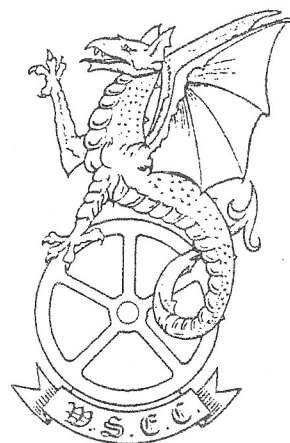


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

MARCH 2001

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NEWSLETTER



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******* EDITORIAL *******

The first event this year to be cancelled by the Foot and Mouth outbreak was our 'Sortout' at Cheddar. But I think many more will follow. The Mells Daffodil Rally is only three weeks away, and our Annual Rally at Cheddar is only twelve weeks away. The chances of these events taking place will be in some doubt. The entire season's rallies takes place on farmland with permission given by a farmer sympathetic to our cause. Every help and assistance must be given to our farmers while this dreadful disease prevails by adhering to the rules and regulations put in place by the local councils and MAAF officials. Any events cancelled will be published in future Newsletters. Watch this space.

******* CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *******

The A.G.M. which took place in February, passed without any problems or criticism of the Committee whatsoever. The entire Committee offered themselves for re-election and so will serve for another year. Phil Marshall offered to serve on the Committee and was unanimously voted on by the members present, this helps to restore the Committee to its original strength. After the meeting another member told me he was thinking of coming on the Committee, this will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and if his application is voted and accepted we will have yet another Committee member. Things are really looking up. You will see from the Editorial that there will be problems with events this year. Members will have to put their trust in the Committee to make difficult decisions on their behalf, that is what you elected us for.

BJB.

******* GET WELL SOON *******

Member Dennis Hodges has recently been in Hospital and coincidental his Wife Sybil was also admitted to Hospital at the same time. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to both of you.

******* STOP PRESS *******

**MELLS DAFFODIL RALLY CANCELLED DUE TO
FOOT AND MOUTH RESTRICTIONS.**

THE MARKET PLACE

INSIDE MICROMETER in wooden box, complete with several extensions
1" to 12" £60.

SET OF SIX OUTSIDE MICROMETERS 0" to 6" £50 set or £10 each.

UNUSUAL OUTSIDE MICROMETER 0" to 4" £50.

TAP & DIE SET ¼" to ½", 26 TPI in wooden box £10.

TAP & DIE SET M.E. thread ¼" to ½" 32 & 40 TPI £20.

MAGNETIC DUAL GAUGE and stand in wooden box £20.

DIAL GAUGE ONLY £10.

2 X 6" VEE BLOCKS £10 per pair.

2 x 3" VEE BLOCKS £8 per pair.

TWO x SETS OF B.A. TAPS & DIES in wooden boxes 0 – 10 BA £25 per set.

6" JAW MACHINE VICE including index table £30.

6" ANGLE PLATE £10.

3 LEG PULLER 12" reach £15.

2 LEG PULLER 4" reach plus spare legs £10.

VERTICAL SURFACE GRINDER with 6" wheel and magnetic table £40.

STENT MILLING TOOL GRINDING MACHINE as illustrated in Model Engineer,
including 2 wheels and reversible motor £150.

ROTARY INDEX TABLE and chuck 6" diam. £50.

BRAND NEW, NEVER USED HIGH PRESSURE WASHER cost £290, accept £150.

FOR ALL ABOVE RING 01749 840413 SHEPTON MALLET AREA.

BEDFORD MIDI, EX MINI-BUS

1986, tax Oct,
MOT Sept,
recent new
clutch, towbar
fitted, very
reliable, good
condition £600.

For further
details ring
01934 820911.
Banwell area.

ENFIELD

Flat twin, two
stroke engine,
350cc, ex W.D.
(as per the article
in last months
stationary engine
magazine) All
complete ready
for restoration
£100 ono. Ring
01749 342671.
Shepton Mallet
area.

TRAILER four wheel, good condition, built in ramps, ready for the road £120.

Ring 01458 210929. Ashcott area.

WORK

Two years ago at our Cheddar Club Rally my daughter came to visit the show and presented me with two old books that she thought I might like (A Fathers day present). To some the books title 'Work' may seem a bit on the offensive side and certainly would not want to read about in their 'free time', to others if you are like me I always have a curiosity about what others do and what goes on in the world around me. I have, since been given this wonderful present acquired five more 'Work' books and as they are the size of a Ministers Bible and as thick as a door step, I have enough reading to keep me quiet for the next ten years. So what's so special about 'Work', well the books are a Weekly Illustrated Journal for Mechanics dating back to 1893 to 1902, they will take you back to the time when you could buy for two shillings an air tube to fit your 'Juno' or Royal Ajax bicycle which if you could not afford to buy outright for £10 – 16s 8d per month would still allow you to purchase it, this was the day of the tally man who would lend you the world if he could and get you evicted from your home if you failed to pay up. So what else is in the book? Masses of world noted, what was going on in the world in engineering circles, new inventions, some that worked out and some that didn't, so before we look at what was going on let us have a little imagination and wind your clock back 102 years. Great Britain was sending troops to fight in the Boer War and also had a military presence in about twenty five percent of the rest of our planet, and if you weren't in 'Her Majesty's Service' you probably worked an eleven or twelve hour day for 5½ or 6 days a week, you may have walked several miles to your employment or ridden on an old bone shaker of a bicycle to work. Most of the vegetables you ate would be from your own garden, which would have been fertilised from the little house in the back yard, and if you were a country person the meat on your plate was rabbit or an old hen that didn't lay anymore.

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You would probably arrive home from work around 6-7pm have a wash in the scullery or bathroom, if you were a professional person, have your tea or dinner spend half an hour with you five children (remember no radio or TV at this time) send the kids off to bed and after a chat with your wife for an update on how hers and your day went and then settle down to read your copy of 'Work', probably by oil lamp or gas light if you lived in a town. So now you have prepared yourself and been wished back 102 years what you are about to read was current news and reports:-

January 28th 1899 – For Sale. Oil and Gas engines, safe, reliable, economical, compact, simple, great success, cheap, moderate prices, numerous testimonials. A & S Barker, 361 High Road, Leyton, E.

Hot Air Engine, two heavy flywheels, perfect condition 15s – Burnie, 121 Portland Road, Notting Hill.

Electric Light at home. Complete outfit comprising 2½ candlepower lamp and three powerful batteries, 35ft wire, sufficient chemicals and full instructions 2/6d.

Gatlings New Cast Steel Gun constructed in America at a cost of about £8000, was not a success, the intended test from it was to fire 300 rounds, it withstood a pressure of 37000 pounds to the square inch for fourteen rounds, but at the fifteenth it burst into fragments. Dr Gatling said that this result is probably due to a mishap at one stage of the manufacture.

February 18th 1899 – Trials of Motor Mail Carts in Germany have not proved satisfactory, some remarks of the German Postmaster General suggest that the motors were more expensive than horses, and that they were not as reliable. Artificial Eyes to the number of 2 million were manufactured in Germany last year.

February 25th 1899 – A double cylinder steam fire engine has lately been constructed by Messrs Merryweather & Sons, Greenwich S.E. for the London County Council.

March 11th 1899 – A Curious Method of replacing a standpipe Roof which together with the upper part of the ladder leading up to it was blown off in a storm has been employed. The water was withdrawn from the pipe inside which was built a raft, this was laden with workmen and utensils and the water turned on raising the raft at 25ft per hour, the ascent occupying five hours. Hooks and pulleys were then attached to the pipe, and material then drawn up the outside, the men then used the raft as a working platform.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

ROBIN

LOOKING BACK – EXTRACTS FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS

January 1984 – Brian Munt's Magic Lantern Show (still showing in 2000). Annual Dinner and dance at the Mason's Hall, Frome. **1986** – Very wet for months, the only hot weekend was our rally (exactly the same for last year's rally). **1987** – Membership £6 Joint membership. **1986** – Trophy cabinet purchased for £64 (Now displayed at Nunney Catch Café). **1987**. Letter from Richard & Caroline Cuff from Blandford saying it was the best rally yet at Cheddar. It had taken them 2 hours to do 48 miles. Also a letter from Emerson Salkelo from Newport, Gwent (where are all these members now? ED.) **1987 June** – New member Arthur Smith (now our Secretary) joins the Club. **1987 March** – Inter Club Skittles Match, Wessex versus South Somerset Club.

1987 January – Antique shop in Bath had for sale 1940 1.5 Ruston Hornsby P.T. at £160 (as said in the Newsletter five times its value). **1988 January** – Anti-Freeze Crank Up. Cecil Gilbert and strange little unknown engine and Derek Watts tried to see whose engine would run the longest on an egg cup full of petrol.

1988 May – It seems that the more members we get the fewer help the Newsletter. Next months a blank sheet of paper with W.S.E.C on may fall through your letterbox, don't blame me, blame yourselves (nothing is new, I'm glad to see previous editors had the same problems that I am experiencing now. ED). **1988 Wessex Rally** – Engine entry 148, motorcycles 13, cars 14, tractors 13. **1989 September** – The Committee considered it would be improper to continue presenting expensive brass plaques, the 10th Rally had a special presentation of a jug and a mug. Since the price of plaques have rocketed to £400. Hence this years cloth badge. **1989 October** – Subscription for 1990 increased to £8 joint. **1990 August** – received an offer from The Stationary Engine Club – every 5 new magazine subscriptions they will credit W.S.E.C with goods to the value of £25.

1990 July – At the Rally Lister D, economy run, all engine tanks drained, ¼ of a pint in, last one to stop is the winner. 7 engine entered, the longest runner B J Baker – 1 hour 15 minutes. **GLORIA AND EDWARD CARP.** (With thanks to Dennis Hodges who supplied the back numbers of Newsletters).

So nothing is new after all. Many thanks to Gloria and Ed for this very interesting 'Blast from the past', I think this could be the first of many articles on the same subject. ED.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 2001

Looking back over our Club's past year, I only missed one or two meetings but the ones that I did attend were sheer enjoyment. A whole years worth of entertainment is laid on here at the Old Down Inn, and whether it was an illustrated talk, a magic lantern show, or a load of old billhooks, the presentations were superb. To pick out just a few (Route 66) by Andy Westlake gave us a travelogue from west to east right across America. Those that have ridden motor cycles or still do must have got good vibrations to the tune of 'I could fancy doing that on a large easy rider machine, I certainly did. The talk and slides of the Somerset Coal Canal by Roger Halse gave us a wealth of information and views over areas that are familiar with many of us. The presentations given by so many of our guest speakers are so professional, it shows the dedication they put into their subjects. The Police dog handler was late arriving owing to an urgent job that had cropped up, and what an excellent ½ hours entertainment we had from our own Rob Armstrong who explained to us all how best to dispose of a missile safely. A superb talk by Rob which left me thinking – I'm sure there is some more untapped stories to be told. Events that have taken place away from the Old Down Inn included two engine jumbles at Cheddar, these are now an established event on the rallyists calendar and we are drawing stalls and visitors from far afield. As was our Rally, probably one of the best I've seen. I know the weather could not have been better, the engines displayed were a credit to their owners as was all the other exhibits scattered around the field. I did write up for the newsletter on this event and amongst my comments were for club members not to be too disappointed if you don't see thousands of visitors pouring through the pay gate, as historically our rallies never have been swamped with public. Our hobby is a specialist one and this will always limit numbers attending. The rally is put on for you the Club members to have a weekend of leisure doing what you enjoy most amongst your friends and families. We have also in the past year held a number of events at Nunney Catch, and are much indebted to Gordon and Jackie for their hospitality and kindness. These really have took off and are very well supported, they require very little effort to set up as all the cones are set out by Gordon and just need roping off by us. I must say at this point a big thank you to Don Rogers who is so helpful in sorting out the parking up when I get side-tracked and start jawing and fail to notice the queue of vehicles building up. Don sorts everyone for which I am much indebted to him. Thank you Don. I suppose the biggest upheaval during the past year was the resignation of our Club Secretary, this was earlier on in the year and quite unexpected, we had to find a new secretary fairly quickly as we could not legally operate a limited company without one, but we had to ensure that we found the right person for the job, who would have a good understanding of our Clubs requirements. Our new Secretary to be was already serving on the committee and had been a club member for many many years – Arthur Smith. Arthur was approached and after some brow beating and lots of encouragement agreed to take the job in which he has superseded all our expectations, his computer literacy, plus his contacts and connections has enabled him to have his finger on the button at all times. He has reorganised our club information with Old Glory Magazine and Stationary Engine and has just asked our President Eric Brain to update the Internet web page about our Club, which was changed the very next morning. So he makes things happen and that's what a good secretary is all about. Things in our Club won't just happen, they are made to work by our committee, all thoroughly talked through before begin implemented. With the best intentions from time to time things can go wrong as can all the best laid plans and looking back over the past year with our Chairman Brian at the helm, we should all be very pleased with the way they have conducted the year gone by. Thank you all.

ROBIN.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY APRIL 1ST – VISIT TO JOHN UPTONS ENGINE COLLECTION at Grateley, Nr Andover. Open Day, 9am onwards. The collection is reputed to consist of over 300 engines and the Upton family is renowned for their hospitality. Let's have a good Club turnout for this event.

SUNDAY APRIL 29TH – CRANK-UP AT NUNNEY CATCH. Everyone welcome. Bring and buy sale, usual raffle, prizes welcome for details ring 01935 824543.

MONDAY APRIL 30TH – CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN. Guest Speaker Reg Dally (Ex Somerset Coal Miner). Talk on his life in the Local Somerset Coal Mines.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND – MENDIP MAYHEM CRANK-UP AND CAR BOOT SALE at Brian Fear's Garage, Nr Oakhill. Stationary engines and Vintage Vehicles wanted. Car Boot Stalls wanted, usual raffle, prizes most appreciated. For details or bookings ring Roger on 01761 233028.