

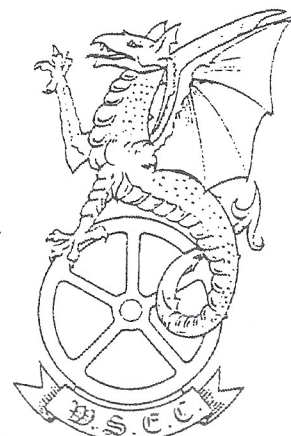


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

MARCH 2006

*The Editor : Brian Baker
27 Wickham Way
SHEPTON MALLET
Somerset BA4 5YG
Tel: 01749 342671*

NEWSLETTER



Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. All rights reserved

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

It was a very pleasant surprise to see quite a good turnout of members at the WSEC's 26th AGM at the Old Down Inn on February 23rd. It was a big disappointment to me to get only one nomination to serve on the committee from a total membership of over three hundred and fifty. This one nomination was from a recent new member not from a member who has enjoyed for a number of years the benefits that this club gives. The fact that two members stood down from the committee this year and only one joined means the committee are now short handed. This is an absolute disgraceful state of affairs from such a large membership.

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

The club has got off to a really good start this year with the first meeting at the Old Down Inn very well supported, and a really good turn out both of stall holders and buyers at our Sortout at Cranmore. This event put a nice sum of money into club funds without much effort or organising to achieve it. The only thing that marred the day was a snowfall that seemed to be confined to the village of Cranmore, which had a snowfall that turned the approach road to the railway into a skating rink, it was impossible to stand up on it never mind drive on it. One of our members crashed his van into a wall causing extensive damage, fortunately he was unhurt. I managed to borrow a shovel from one of the stall holders and after spreading some gravel in the entrance vehicles were able to get into the sortout. By the time we left the site every trace of the snow had disappeared. The AGM this year was again well supported by members attending, this year so far has had a "hat trick" of well supported events, long may it continue throughout the year.

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

MONDAY MARCH 28th Mells Daffodil Rally. For details if you wish to attend ring Robin on 01373 463526

SUNDAY APRIL 10th WSEC Spring Crank-Up at Nunney Catch Transport Café. The café is open for hot food and drinks. We shall have the usual grand raffle. Prizes for the raffle would be appreciated. Bring and buy goods for sale.

SUNDAY APRIL 17th Club visit to the Museum of Army Flying. Meet at the museum at Middle Wallop at 10am. If any member would like to share transport or have room to park their vehicles they could meet up at Heytesbury at Arthur Smiths house at 8-45 to 9am. If you wish to do this give Arthur a ring on 01985 840385.

MONDAY APRIL 25th Club night at the Old Down Inn. Guest speaker Mr Alan Rogers giving a talk on Ships in Bottles. Usual large raffle for club funds.

PLEASE NOTE – The advertised crank-up at Radstock has been cancelled. The area that we used to exhibit the engines has been turned into a garden.

PRESIDENTS ADDRESS – A.G.M. FEBRUARY 2005

When I sat down to write my notes for tonight's A.G.M. I just could not believe the speed that the last year has passed us by.

I hope that you will all agree that 2004 was once again another successful year for our Club, as in passed years here at the Old Down Inn we have been blessed with excellent speakers to entertain us, with topics that varied from Bath Trams, adventures across the pond to the Clifton Rocks Railway, to name just a few. Our outside events were once again I believe well supported, the two vintage jumbles we held at Cranmore brought visitors from as far away as Southampton-Bournemouth-Devon and Cornwall which shows that the word has gone out and reached distant ears that we were worth a visit. Out Crank-ups at Jackie & Gordon's Café were once again well supported and as many of you may know the Café is on the market and expected to change hands. Gordon has told us that all interested parties have told him they would like to keep the motorcycle and events we hold there going which is nice for us as another location with these facilities would be hard to find.

Our main event of the year at Clutton was in my opinion a great success and made much easier to stage as most of the liaisons with the Clutton people had been done the previous year. I know some of you were a little disappointed with entry levels but the Club Rally was always for you our club members to get together and enjoy one another's company over a long weekend enabling you to exchange views and ideas and help others who are perhaps not as fortunate as yourselves. We are not in competition with larger events that cost thousands of pounds to put on. Once again our members and friends turned out in force to assist with setting up and practically everything was done on the first evening. This must have been a record as it usually takes two or three evenings.

Our Social Evening at Butler & Tanner's Club was excellent as we all skittled the night away, some of you had never played before, but I hope you enjoyed the game as much as the children did, and our fish and chips supper along with a pint to wash it down helped to complete a great evening.

Jackie has given you our clubs financial report showing that we are holding our own, money wise and our memberships fee still offers good values for money. At this time we have in excess of 300 members slightly up on last year and we still have 50 or so forgetfuls who when they realise their newsletters stop coming will soon twig why!!!! Although I believe Mary will be sending reminders out with the next newsletter.

Sadly during the past year several of our club members passed away leaving a void in the lives of all that knew them. We have an elderly membership as do many clubs and societies but as we all age together it don't become apparent until we receive the dreaded phone call that we have lost a member and friend.

As you all know our club does not run it's self, the people sat before you make things happen for us all to enjoy often after a lot of thought and deliberation, not an easy task, but looking back over last year they should be congratulated on how well they performed, and here I include Mary who as a non committee member does a sterling job sending out the newsletters each month, well done to them all

ROBIN

The club would like to thank Tom Randall for designing the Christmas card again this year, yet again at short notice as usual, many thanks from us all Tom. The club would also like to thank the members who send us stamps or added a few pounds to their subscription to help with the postage, thank you one and all.

THE MARKET PLACE

WANTED Cooling Tank for 1922 Lister L. or a suitable tank that I could use. It must be no less than 18 inches diameter and 30 inches tall. If you can help contact Mr RJ Trott on 011793726 Bristol area.

RUST AND PAINT REMOVAL USING ELECTROLYSIS

I came upon this method of rust removal while searching the internet for information about stationary engines. I am amazed that in 30 years of playing with all forms of engines from 6.6 litre Pontiac Trans Ams to Reliant Robins I have never heard of this before. At first I was sceptical and decided to try a small experiment to see if the process worked. The only thing I needed to buy was a packet of washing soda crystals from the supermarket, a matter of some 50p!!! Take an empty ice cream container or similar non-metallic container and fill with a medium solution of washing crystals – a couple of tablespoonfuls for an ice cream container is reasonable. Connect the positive terminal of a battery charger to a six inch nail suspended in the solution. Take the item you want to clean – I chose a rusty spanner to experiment with – connect this to the negative terminal of the battery charger and suspend this in the solution. Do not let the positive nail touch the negative spanner. Within seconds you should see bubbles start to appear in the solution. After an hour or two the spanner can be removed from the solution. Any rust that remains can be removed by rubbing with your thumb. The rusty spanner should now be completely rust free. Wash the spanner in clean water, dry immediately and paint with an undercoat. I was so impressed with the process that I bought a large plastic dustbin which I now keep in the corner of the workshop. It is fitted with a 'grid' of steel reinforcing rods around the outside to which I connect the positive of my battery charger. The solution was made with three bags of crystals and still works fine after months of use. It's most recent use was removing rust from the grinding wheels of a Bamford's Mill. The surface of these was restored to a beautiful clean shiny surface from what originally appeared to be lumps of rust. It has also been used to strip paint and rust from many of the castings. If anyone would like more details they are welcome to telephone or if they wish, bring their rusty component to my workshop and I will show them how the process works.

MICHAEL ST JOHN

***** A LETTER TO THE CLUB *****

It is with very much regret we have to inform you of the loss of the display area outside of the Radstock Museum. The area has now changed as a miners memorial garden, and cenotaph remembrance park, to which the council have applied new by-laws restricting it's use. Your annual working displays for us have given so much pleasure to many people, may we ask that you give a big sincere thank you to your President, Chairman, and all the Wessex members who have supported your days with us at Radstock. And to assure you all of a warm welcome on any visit to the museum. Our best wishes for the continued success of the club and may you have many more "crank-up's".

Sincere & best wishes to all,
Dennis Chedgy (for Radstock Museum).

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

The club members would like to wish Mary Verrall many happy returns of the day on her birthday on Friday 4th March. Brian gave Mary a "no expense spared" birthday treat on the following day, - he took her to our sortout at Cranmore, he did always know how to treat a lady.

FUN QUIZ THE ANSWERS

The way we were in 1957. in old money.

1 pint of milk cost	8d
6 eggs	3s-3d
A pint of beer in a pub	1s-4d
A bottle of whisky	37s-6d
A television licence	£3 -0-0d
A basic rate postage stamp	3d

The inflation rate in 1957 was 3.7%

Average price of a new home was £2330

The Prime Minister in Oct 1957 was Macmillan

The country that asked us to remove our military personnel was Jordan.

Thanks to Margaret Simmons for compiling this quiz for us.

NEW MAGAZINE

Members can obtain a free sample issue of a new magazine entitled BEST OF BRITISH by writing to Church Lane Publishing Ltd, Bank Chambers, 27a Market Place, Market Deeping, Lincs PE6 8EA. All you have to do is tell them you are a member of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd and it will be sent to you direct.

Congratulations to Liz Hibbs, After attending the renal unit at Southmead Hospital for almost 5 years Liz was given some good news when she went to see the transplant surgeon on the 7th of this month. He has now placed her on the transplant list, this means she now has to carry a pager at all times in case a donor kidney becomes available, also we have to be within 4 hours of the hospital, and have to be contactable 24 hours a day, but this does not mean that Liz will get a suitable match straight away. I think she has been very brave in the way she has coped with her kidney failure, never complaining, and I hope, along with myself you will wish her all the best of luck for the future.

Arthur Smith (Secretary)

I am sure that all members wish Liz all the best for the future in her quest for good health and our thoughts and good wishes go with her in what must be a very worrying time ahead, waiting and hoping for that pager to go off. **BJB.**

COMMITTEE FOR 2005 - ELECTED AT THE AGM

The following Officers and Committee were elected to run the Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd at the AGM at the Old Down Inn on Monday 28th February 2005.

PRESIDENT ROBIN LAMBERT. **CHAIRMAN** BRIAN BAKER. **VICE-CHAIRMAN** ERIC GAY.
SECRETARY ARTHUR SMITH. **TREASURER** JACKIE LAMBERT. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**
TONY DAVIS. DIANA DAVIS. MARTIN FEENEY. PHILLIP MARSHALL. ANTHEA FEENEY. MICHAEL ST JOHN. If any member has any question whatsoever about anything to do with the club do not hesitate to contact any of the committee who will only be to happy to try and answer your query. That is what you elected us for.

PRESENTATIONS MADE AT THE AGM

The following members were presented with gifts at the AGM in recognition of the important tasks they carry out on behalf of the club. Diana Davis for her work with the raffles and running the club shop was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Mary Butler for her work distributing the newsletter every month was presented with a cheque and flowers. Although Mary is not a committee member she plays a very important role behind the scenes ensuring everyone receives their newsletter on time. She has done this job for many- many years having taken on the task when Marg and Bill Appleby gave it up. Mary used to do the final type up of the newsletter for Robin when he was editor and carried on doing it when Brian took over, it was only when Brian went 'computerised' that Mary stopped doing the typing but carried on with the distribution. I'm sure you will all agree this is an outstanding contribution for nearly 20 years. For this commitment to the club the committee has made Mary an honorary life member of the club. Another long serving member is Jackie our treasurer, now in her 20th year looking after our finances as well as being membership secretary. For this splendid record Jackie was presented with a basket of fruit and a bunch of red roses. This year the editors cup for the best contribution to the newsletter was presented to Margaret Simmons for her brilliant articles, reports and quizzes she has sent in to the editor over the past year.

OBITUARY

It was with sadness we learned of the death of Adrian Stride. Although Adrian had not been a member of the club for many years in the early days he was a committee member and played an active part in all that took place. Adrian once lived and worked in Bath but spent his later years in Spain. We are told illness forced his return to the UK where sadly he passed away. Adrian was well liked by all who knew him. The club would like to offer our sympathy and condolences to his family.