

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1995



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CLUB NIGHT - Monday 27th March 1995 at the Old Down Inn.

What a pleasant surprise this meeting turned out to be, the club room was packed to capacity, please keep this up for the rest of the year.

After a couple of announcements I introduced our guest speaker for the evening, retired prison officer Mr. Francis J. Disney, B.E.M., prison historian and author from Shepton Mallet, where he had spent the last 15 years of his service at Shepton Mallet Jail, the oldest jail in the country still in use. The jail is over 300 years old and in days gone by was a very grim place to be in. The jail had a corn mill, this was driven by a treadmill which was powered by forty convicts at any one time, beatings and deaths were commonplace. Harsh severe sentences were the order of the day, one 18 year old was sentenced to 6 months hard labour followed by deportation from the country for stealing two cows tails from a local butcher. (Todays judges please take note).

After the defeat of the Monmouth Rebellion in 1685 many Sheptonians who had been in sympathy with the Duke fled for their lives, Judge Jefferies held his infamous assizes and he sentenced 12 men to be hung drawn and quartered in Shepton Mallet Market Place, their heads were impaled on poles and displayed around various parts of the town (nowadays they would have been sent on Safari holidays). Mr. Disney gave a detailed talk on the prison history from the time it was built until the present day, a very comprehensive book he has written and had published took over five years to research.

In 1930 the prison was closed due to a reclining population in the area, a prison designed for 150 inmates now only had about 30. It stayed closed until 1939 when it re-opened at the outbreak of war as a military prison, throughout the entire British Army Shepton Mallet 'glasshouse' was feared by one and all, its purpose was to be so 'intolerable' that know one would want to return. In 1942 the prison was transferred to the American Army during their occupation a lot of Americans mainly black people were executed by hanging or shooting for crimes ranging from rape to murder or desertion.

During the war the prison housed some of the nations treasures including the Domesday Book and the Magna Carta. It was rumoured the crown jewels also were there, this has never been confirmed or denied. After the war the prison was again taken over by the British Army and in May 1960 the prison was once more returned to a civil prison run by the prison service. Part of Mr. Disneys talk and presentation was two long tables which he proceeded to cover with items he took from two brief cases, I assisted him with one table and Bob Hallam with the other. On one table he displayed items and goods made in the prison workshops to keep the inmates gainfully employed, these consisted of plastic goods made in modern plastic injection machines, some of these were made under contract to firms like M. & S., Harrods etc., toothbrushes, carrier bags, beakers, combs, pens etc. - How he managed to get so much out of one case was amazing. The other table was covered by illegal goods made by the prisoners, rope ladders, pipes for smoking drugs, knives etc. another table full from one case - amazing.

Mr. Disney was thanked for his excellent presentation and then he invited questions from the audience. He then invited anyone to purchase copies of his superb book, the profits of which go to the Dorothy House Foundation. In 1991 Mr. Disney was awarded the B.E.M. in the Queens New Years honours list for fund raising and public relations. The raffle followed a short break for glasses to be filled and the meeting ended around 10 o'clock.

B.J. BAKER.

CLUB VISIT TO RADSTOCK & DISTRICT MUSEUM - Sunday 9th April.

This visit was arranged by the committee as a result of a talk on the Museum earlier in the year at one of our club nights. I was more than disappointed when only eleven members turned up for this visit, where the h..l were the rest of you.

The Museum is situated just outside Radstock at Haydon, the site must have been a farm years ago as the exhibits are displayed in a converted cow stall. Before the Somerset Coal fields closed down, mining was the main source of employment in this area and a great number of exhibits were relics from this once great industry, there was even a mock coal face and tunnel we could walk through. A replica of a miners cottage made one appreciate all the modern conveniences the modern housewife has at her disposal. I saw a couple of Lister 'D's abandoned outside together with quite a collection of old farm implements and mining equipment. Inside was a Lister 'L' dated 1914 and sold when new to a blacksmith in Midsomer Norton, this engine is on loan from Wessex member Tom Randall.

On the lawn outside was a troupe of clog dancers performing 'The Beetle Crushers' from Wells, they had a good audience and certainly put on a good performance dancing to the music of a piano accordian.

An Easter Fayre was held in the house adjoining the museum, this had various goods for sale including some delicious looking home made cakes, a display of antique glassware attracted quite a large audience as the owner gave a detailed talk on the subject. Teas and refreshments were on sale, most of us bought tea and took it outside to sit in the sun, very tranquil and enjoyable. By now it was four o'clock and time to depart (yes all eleven of us!!!!) all in all it has been a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon and I would recommend anyone to visit and see for themselves.

B.J. BAKER.

WANTED more rally dates and information on local events in your area, also what do you have for sale? or what about that spare part you can't find, just drop me a line or give me a ring and make good use of our FREE advertising service that will be read by over 240 Wessex members. ED.

FOR SALE - Bamford seed mill with original wooden hopper. As found, dismantled to remove from a field. £20 or offers.
4 x 14 inch four-spoked wheels with split axles. As found. £10 or offers.
Owner has run-out of opportunity. Contact 01249 720007. Chippenham Purchaser to collect.

FOR SALE - Two Listers - One 1943 - One 1938. Ring 01252 310356 (Aldershot area).

FOR SALE - Ransome Lawn Mower 16" approx. Wartime era, in need of good home, would possibly make a good rally exhibit. Contact - Mr. M. Meredith, Rose Cottage, Borough Post, North Curry, Taunton. TA3 6NB. Tel: 0183 490862.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Due to other commitments Bill Coombs cannot run the Mendip Crank-Up this year so rather than let this event disappear I have decided to run it myself. Anyone requiring engine or car boot space please let me know on 01749 342671 as space is limited. The date is August 6th.

As the proceeds of this event benefits CLIC and the Wessex Club, any prizes donated for the raffle will be very welcome.

The Rally committee reports good progress for this years rally, over 100 entries already in, the same entertainment as last year for the Saturday evening and hopefully a far better layout for the stationary engines. This year we intend to place them all around the perimeter of the field with the vehicles behind the engines, so with an ideal set up like this lets see more large engines on display. This is your club rally, make an effort to make it the most successful yet, also don't forget the auction, turn your junk into spending money for the beer tent, also anyone who could help on the rally field on the Thursday evening or all day Friday to set the rally up, your assistance would be really welcome, please let any committee member have you name if you could help.

B.J. BAKER.

PLACES TO GO.

The Waterworks Museum in Hereford by the River Wye - Open in steam 2-5pm, the last Sunday in every month from March to October inclusive, Easter, Spring and August Bank Holiday Sunday/Monday.

Warminster Fun Day - 14th May. Warminster Street Fayre - 3rd June. Chameleon Fun Day, Frome Victoria Park - August 13th. Glastonbury Extravaganza - 20th August.

If anyone would like to take an engine to support any of the four above events please contact by Tel: 01985 216642.

MELLS DAFFODIL DAY - Easter Monday 17th April 1995.

This rally held in the beautiful village of Mells, always heralds the start of the rally season, about 40, mostly Wessex Club members turned up despite the bitter cold windy weather, with quite a varied selection of engines.

The rally field is situated next to the churchyard and serves as a public car park and display area. As well as the 40 engines there was a very large entry of vintage and classic cars, motor cycles, tractors etc, a funfair, beer tent, food vendors all added to the atmosphere. The village streets were all closed to traffic and are full of stalls and street vendors peddling their wares, every conceivable thing imaginable is offered for sale. The Talbot Inn a historic coaching inn was open for liquid refreshment all day, and was really packed out with thirsty travellers. A large battalion of cavaliers and roundheads were engaged in battles during the day, but I think most of them deserted to the Talbot Inn. This wonderful display of village life of yesteryear is called the 'Daffodil Day' because of the enormous amount of daffodils planted all around the grass verges and gardens of the village, but because of a late Easter this year most of them were past their best. The weathermen forecast rain for late afternoon and for once they were right about 4 o'clock it started, all the engines started to pack up and head for home. Thanks to Robin Lambert for organising this event. See you in the Talbot next year.

B.J. BAKER.

DON'T FORGET - 10th June (Saturday) in Trowbridge town centre, paved area, stationary engines wanted to advertise our rally. 9.30 am onwards. Also for the club stall at the rally Bric-a-brac etc wanted to sell to help swell club funds. If anyone has anything to give please bring it to the rally with you, we shall be grateful for anything you wish to donate.

MONTHLY MEETING - Monday 22nd May - Ivor Yeo with a talk on magnetos.

Whilst walking to my car in Bath's Royal United Hospital car park, I bumped into club member Maureen Baker who told me husband Don had been admitted in a hurry a few days earlier. He was now making good progress and hoped to be going home around the 3rd May. Best wishes to you Don, get well soon. PS I hope the new pyjamas fitted OK (only Don and Mo will understand this bit). ED.

WELCOME to new members Mr. O. Cockram from Bournemouth and Mr. S.C. Morris and Daniel from Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

ONE DAY VINTAGE RALLY - Somerset Vintage Farming Society - Rally to be held on Sunday 4th June at the George and Dragon Public House, Stanshalls Lane, Felton off the A38 South of Bristol. Contact: Mr. A. Vardon, 30 Jubilee Road, Kingswood, Bristol. BS15 4XF
Tel: 0117 9574564.

POLISHING

GRIT & BEAD BLASTING

**ALL OLD PAINT & RUST FROM ALL METAL PARTS OF ALL OLD KINDS
OF MOTORISED CARS - BIKES - ENGINES - MACHINES - ETC - ETC**

**POLISHING TO ALL KINDS OF OBJECTS INCLUDING ALL YOUR MOTOR
CYCLE & MOTOR CAR ALUMINIUM, COPPER, BRASS, ETC.
ALL STEAM & STATIONARY ENGINE PARTS CATERED FOR
LONG RUNS. PRODUCTION WORK WELCOME**

**POWDER COATING & WET SPRAYING
SPECIAL TREATMENTS TO ALL TIMBER - FURNITURE ETC.**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF ALL SERVICES

PHONE BERNIE RICHARDSON

ON 01935 862878 OR 0850 473382

(West Coker, Nr. Yeovil)

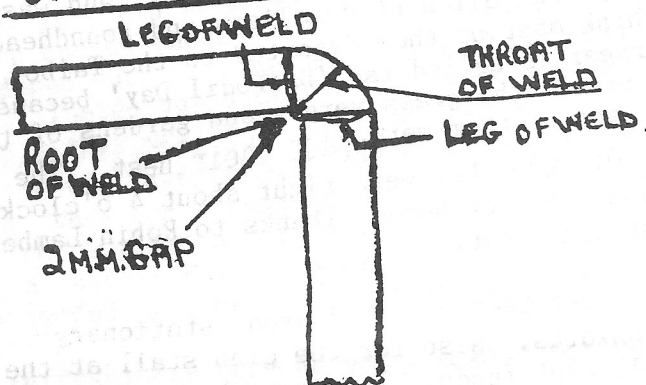
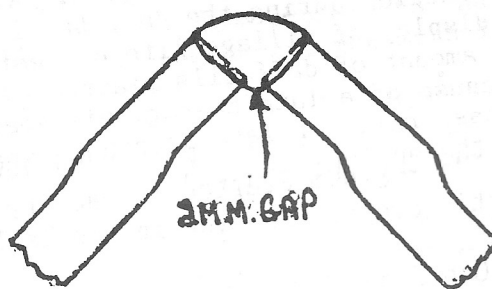
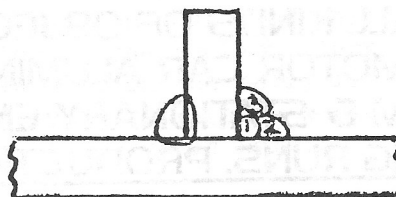
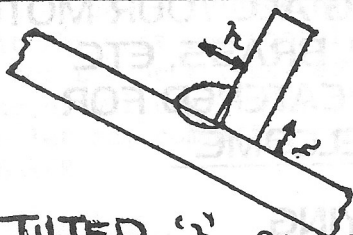
CORNER WELDSCORNER WELDOPEN CORNER WELDBUTT WELD DATA: (APPROX) FOR NORMAL WORK.

PLATE THICKNESS.	EDGE PREPARATION	ELECTRODE SIZE IN ORDER OF RUNS	NUMBER OF RUNS	APPROX CURRENT AMPS.	OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGES. 80-100 VOLTS FOR 16, 14, 12 S.W.G. ELECTRODES. 50-80 VOLTS FOR 10 S.W.G. AND LARGER. N.B. ALWAYS STRICTLY ADHERE TO MANUFACTURERS DATA. PRINTED ON ELECTRODE CARTON.
M.M.					
2-3	BUTT, NO GAP	14	ONE	70	
3	BUTT 2 M.M. GAP	12 OR 10	ONE	80	
5	BUTT 3 M.M. GAP	10 OR 8	ONE	120	
6-9	60° V, 2 M.M. GAP	8	TWO	160	
13	60° V 3 M.M. GAP	10, 8, 6	THREE	200	
19	U. 5 M.M. GAP	8, 6, 4	THREE	320	
19 AND ABOVE	60° DOUBLE V, 2 M.M. GAP.	8, 6, 4	THREE OR MORE		

FILLET WELDS.TILTED 'h' = SIZE OF FILLET.HORIZONTAL VERTICAL POSITION.

IF POSSIBLE, WORK SHOULD BE TILTED SO THAT FILLET WELDS CAN BE MADE IN THE DOWNHAND POSITION.