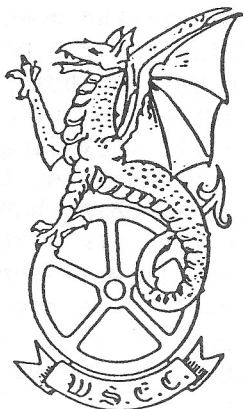


# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 1997



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### EDITORIAL

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We all like to attend the large multi day rallies with all the attractions they have to offer but I would like you all to consider supporting the small, one day, local events, some of which are advertised in this newsletter. They are almost always in aid of a local charity or some deserving cause and should benefit from our support. I find the general public who attend these events are not aware of such things as stationary engines and the ancillary equipment exist and really do show real interest in the exhibits. So come on - Fly the flag for the stationary engine movement and support some of these deserving causes.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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It gives me great satisfaction to report that the club is really thriving. We have had quite a number of new members join this year, and by the end of February we had more members actually joined and paid their subscription than ever before. Our spring coach trip to Joe Powells engineering workshops was really enjoyed by all who went, it really was a very successful event. Our club night at the Old Down Inn in April was packed to capacity to hear the talk by 'Mr. Bristol' Bob Broome, it really was a very good evening. So like I said the club is really doing very well at the moment thanks to the support given by you the members - long may it continue. I recently exhibited at the Abbey Hill Steam Fair at Yeovil and I was delighted to meet Brian Lovell who looked the picture of health after his operation for major heart surgery, he had driven to the show as a visitor and was really enjoying meeting all his friends from the rally scene, the only thing missing was 'Henry' his tractor, somehow Brian doesn't look right sat in a van instead of being perched up on 'Henry'.

Also I was pleased to see quite a number of Wessex members visiting the show including Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hallam, also Gerald and Hazel Atherton, Hazel promised me an article for the newsletter, so watch this space with anticipation.

### \*\*\*\*\* THE MARKET PLACE \*\*\*\*\*

- FOR SALE - LISTER 6½ HP 'L' TYPE. ENGINE NO. 15619. UNFINISHED PROJECT THAT NEEDS A GOOD HOME, ENGINE IS ALL COMPLETE WITH A NEW FUEL TANK, NEW AXLES MADE FOR TROLLEY, SPARE CARB., WATER TANK MAY NEED REPLACING. £130 RING DES ON 01225 755375. (TROWBRIDGE AREA)
- FOR SALE - STATIONARY ENGINE MAGAZINE FULL SETS. 1985 to 1987. 1989 to 1991. PLUS SINGLE COPIES. SALE OR EXCHANGE. W.H.Y. PLEASE CALL JOHN ON 01761 471194. EVENINGS.
- FOR SALE - 3 HP RUSTON HORNSBY PB. ON TROLLEY. GOOD RUNNER. CLASS 2. - £170. PETTER PAZI. DIESEL. - £10. 1958 FRANCIS BARNETT CRUISER. 250 cc. SINGLE CYL. 98% COMPLETE. READY FOR RESTORATION. £230. RING TIM ON 01963 33989 AFTER 6pm. (WINCANTON AREA)
- FOR SALE - TRAILER. 4½ x 3½ x 1½ DEEP. EXCELLENT CONDITION, READY TO USE. - £200. RING PAUL ON 01458 445373. (STREET AREA)

ONE MAN'S SUMMER - CONTINUED.

HEDDINGTON & STOCKLEY - JULY 7th & 8th 1996. This one we have attended for several years now, except 1995 when we decided to give it a miss and like many others support "George Hyde and Goatacre". Anyway this year we returned, and for a change were able to obtain a reasonably level flat spot. This site unfortunately is not one of the smoothest as I'm sure many exhibitors will agree, and does not lend itself for easy leveling. Owing to the number of years this rally has been going it has become a must in the rally calendar for the paying public as there were plenty of people around on both days, with tractor pulling being the main attraction, except this time the public had to pass through the rest of the rally to see them and therefore took time out to look at the other exhibits as well, including watching the normal ring parades of steamers, tractors etc. One thing that is noticeable at this rally and many others is the lack of ring events to entertain the public, i.e. marching bands, axe team competitions, clown shows, etc., I know these items cost money but they are entertaining, which is more than can be said for vehicle parades which the public have already seen in their static positions, except of course the steamers which a lot of people have not seen on the move. All in all Heddington and Stockley was a good rally and has certainly benefited from the injection of new ideas from a changed committee who altered the site layout slightly and installed better facilities which were excellent and a must for any rally. Well done Heddington and Stockley committee. See you next year.

NETLEY MARSH 26th/27th & 28th JULY 1996. For some reason after Heddington we had three weeks spare before our next rally which was going to be Sedgemoor up at Bridgwater, but due to a transmission leak on the van we decided to stay local for us and go to Netley Marsh Steam Rally. This rally as did many others this year enjoyed good weather, which is good for exhibitors and the public alike. This is a charitable event in aid of like so many others, local amenities and organisations, It is run over three days, the show opens on the Friday to enable the less fortunates of our society to look at the show without too much bother from the maddening crowd, which believe me does appear. At this rally there is something for everyone, a large market section, large autojumble, large craft marquee, model section and individual bygone displays, a large motor cycle section including a display of Oxford speedway bikes and their riders, fire engines, commercials, vintage cars, classic cars, tractors, steamers, scale model steamers which were built by their owners, very clever people, to be blessed with the ability to build such wonderful machines. A large number of stationary engines again this year, with most makes being in attendance and producing an excellent display, which is very pleasing to see from both sides of the fence. Although a large percentage of the visitors can't tell one from t'other, to them its just another wheel going around, pop, pop, bang. To sum up this event I can only say it's excellent and congratulations on another successful show. A word of advice to engine owners who have never done this rally and have objections to the penning system, then this rally is not for you, as the pen system has been in operation here for many years and is accepted by those who attend.

RUDGWICK IN SUSSEX 10th & 11th AUGUST 1996. Another weekend off and we come to the 10th and 11th August, and the one and only trip into Sussex. The the Rudgewick Steam and Country Show. This show really is a pleasure to attend, with a terrific amount fitted into a small site. They have a display of heavy horse ploughing, tractor ploughing and steam ploughing in action, sheep shearing demo., but the sheep did not turn up, a Marshall memorabilia marquee, plenty to see and pass comment on, but none the less a smashing show which we enjoy going to. One family that we met there on our first visit was the Pilgrim family all the way from Norfolk, 'Bernard Matthews neighbour'. A lovely friendly family who are a pleasure to be with. As far as I know there were three Wessex members there, myself, my mate Bert Holloway and his son Geoff from Fawley, near Southampton. A very enjoyable weekend and a must for next year. Who knows one or two more Wessex members could travel out of Somerset, across Hampshire, touch Surrey and just into Sussex, I'm sure they will accept "stationary stationary engines" and maybe a highly polished, trophy awarded Lister 'L'. Should you make the trip Edward leave Stumpy behind in case the grass is long, no kerbs to worry about though.

ALAN VICKERY - ONE MAN'S SUMMER WILL BE CONTINUED.

P.S. He keeps referring to my "Stationary" stationary engine, namely my 4½ hp PB Ruston, but I'm sure he must visit before 10 am or after 5 pm because it is running the rest of the time. Unless the beer tent is open that is. EDITOR.

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club wish a very warm welcome to new member - Mr. J. Cox from Evercreech, Somerset.



## \*\*\*\*\* NEW ZEALAND VINTAGE MACHINERY \*\*\*\*\*

During a recent visit to the South Island of New Zealand we came across a variety of stationary engines in various locations, buildings and states. One of our first discoveries was on a visit to the Macraes Goldmining Operations based in North Otago. After looking around the modern operations plant we then went on a tour of the historical gold diggings and were invited to look inside a corrugated iron shed sat in a valley beside some old workings. The opening of the door revealed some inner delights. Here the Department of Conservation and interested members of the public are restoring several shaft driven pieces of machinery. These are driven by a 20 hp Tangye Oil Engine which has been restored and is run every few months as a special exhibition and to raise funds for further work. Further on outside the historic Pub were a selection of discarded engines, including a large Amanco engine, a Ruston Hornsby and several that, because of lack of name plates and condition I was unable to name. At Duntroon, a small village based in the Waitaki valley we called in to look at the local Blacksmith's shop and found two engines, one was a Petter Diesel, operating some of the tools and the other was 'unknown' by me or the owner, but very interesting. Our next visit was to a man named Tom Stephens, who is the past president of the New Zealand Vintage Car Club. He lives on a farm just outside Oamaru and has a collection of cars and stationary engines. In one shed I found two very large Lister engines, a Massey Ferguson engine and a nicely restored Campbell. Among several unrestored engines I found a Jacobson Open Crank Side Shaft engine which hopefully, sometime in the future, I may be able to purchase and ship back to the U.K. Lyn had a ride around the town in a 1906 Argille car, thought she was the 'Bee's Knees' as they say. Tom gave me one of his vintage magazines to read, guess who was one of the editors, David Edgington, no less. A special visit was arranged to the historical museum at Outram where members of the Otago Vintage Machinery Club are restoring several engines and making up a permanent display. This small Club was started back in 1981 and now has 50 members, who have approx. 20 engines. Engines that caught my eye included a Ruston 7E 1929, 38 hp electrical generating engine, a 1919 Austin Tractor, and Andreson vacuum engine, an Austral made by Ronaldson & Tippit (made in Australia) and a 1907 Mirrlees Bickerton & Day, 45 hp single cylinder A frame, 250 rpm, air injection with 800 p.s.i. which was No. 48 of its type to leave the factory. The engine is 10' 6" high, the flywheel has a diameter of 8' 0" and weighs 4 ton. A Lister JP3 230 watt, 17 K.V.A. generator was being used as the power source for the museum. My thanks to all the members of the Club for their kind welcome and to my mate Pete Bishop for arranging the trip. Before leaving New Zealand I had to go back to Tom's to have another look at the Jacobson which I have taken such a fancy to. Unknown to me Tom had arranged a visit to the local club of vintage engine restorers so instead of a ½ hour browse I had a couple of hours browsing among various makes and models of engines and chatting to a few of the members. When I went to New Zealand I never expected to see any stationary engines so everyone was a bonus. All the ones I did get to see were an added surprise and the friendliness of the people added to the enjoyment. I had a great trip. Photographs of these engines can be seen at any of the rallies we attend this year. Just ask us and we will be pleased to oblige.

ROGER PIKE.

## \*\*\*\*\* EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

- SUN. 1st JUNE - FAMILY FUN DAY AT COLEFORD PLAYING FIELD, NR. FROME. ENGINES WANTED. JUST TURN UP. STARTS AT 2 PM.
- SAT. & SUN 14th/15th JUNE - W.S.E.C. ANNUAL RALLY AT SEMINGTON. WORKFORCE REQUIRED ON FRIDAY AND SUNDAY. GOODS REQ'D. TO SELL ON THE CLUB STALL. PRIZES WOULD BE APPRECIATED FOR THE RAFFLE. DON'T FORGET THE AUCTION ON THE SAT. A GOOD MEANS OF TURNING YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH.
- MON. 30th JUNE - CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN. RALLY CHAT FOLLOWED BY A TABLE TOP AUCTION. START LOOKING OUT YOUR UNWANTED GOODS YOU COULD TURN INTO CASH. YOU WILL BE PAID OUT IN CASH ON THE NIGHT.
- SUN. 10th AUGUST - W.S.E.C. COACH TRIP TO THE LONDON SCIENCE MUSEUM. LEAVE THE OLD DOWN CAR PARK AT 7.30 AM. FARE £10. PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT BY RINGING JACKIE LAMBERT - FROME 01373 463526 TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.
- SUN. 31st AUGUST - TENCREST RALLY AT THE MENDIP GARAGE NEAR GURNEY SLADE. DETAILS FROM ROGER PIKE ON 01761 233028. ALSO BOOT SALE SELLERS WANTED.
- SUN. 25th SEPT. - FULL QUART CRANK-UP. WOULD LAST YEARS EXHIBITORS CONTACT ROY ON 01934 419826 TO SECURE THEIR ENTRY.

\*\*\*\*CLUB SHOP\*\*\*\* For the benefit of new members and to remind the old ones, items the club has for sale includes mugs and cups, key rings, pens, badges, etc. etc. Also we are placing an order for sweatshirts in the following sizes, small, medium, large and extra large, these are in Navy Blue with the club logo in red - Price £16.95. Anyone requiring to place an order please contact Charlie Stephens on Wells 01749 674819.

CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN - MONDAY 28TH MARCH.

At the March meeting of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club held at the Old Down Inn we were entertained with a talk on the history of the formation of the Somerset carnivals by John Dando, a member of the Gorgons Carnival Club. The carnivals originated in the Bridgwater area many years ago by people burning empty tar barrels in the streets, obviously the town council did not approve of this and it was promptly stopped. It was then started again by parades of people, mainly from local pubs, this has developed over the years to the magnificent spectacle it is today, and is reckoned to be one of the best carnivals in the world, attracting visitors from as far away as Holland and Germany, besides people from all over England and Wales. The Bridgwater carnival last November had an entry of 136 and is considered to be the premier carnival of the circuit, which includes North Petherton, Wells, Glastonbury, Weston-super-Mare and Shepton Mallet. The floats, or carts as they are known by the club members, (ordinary farm carts were used years ago and this term seems to have stuck), take almost a year to complete, building starts soon after the finish of the last carnival. Most of the carnival clubs are based at pubs from which they take their name for the club, these people, (usually a small band) have got to be dedicated enthusiasts, because not only do they have to do a great deal of work they also contribute a weekly donation to the club to help pay for the materials etc., which can cost up to £10,000 for the building of the float and the running expenses. Fund raising is done by various means throughout the year, apart from the cost of the float the costumes can be very expensive. John exhibited a selection of costumes from past carnivals and very colourful they were. Today the floats have become more complex than ever with electric motors and hydraulic systems operating moving parts, and with the large amounts of bulbs used to illuminate them, and with the large amount of paint used, it is not difficult to see where the money goes. After each carnival a committee of judges assess the floats and apart from awards on the night, points are awarded for final awards at the end of the season. The floats now have a maximum length of 100 feet, 17 feet high and 11 feet wide. It is worth mentioning that towns that host these carnivals contribute large sums of money to various charities.

RAY BAKER.

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A good workforce to set up the rally on the Friday, and also on the Sunday evening to take it all down again. Last year the response was tremendous, the rally was set up in record time, lets make it equally good this year.

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Goods to sell at the rally on the club stall, any unwanted items, bric a brac, books, china, clothes, tinned food, kitchen utensils, in fact any thing you no longer have a use for would be welcome. So turn out your attics and cupboards and sheds, all the proceeds go to club funds. Also any prizes suitable for the raffle would be greatly appreciated, any items for these appeals can be given to any member of the committee.

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WANTED. 20 to 30 engines for a rally at Somerset and Avon Railway Association.  
To be held at Radstock, Marcroft old wagon works - 21st and 22nd JUNE. For more details ring - 01761 452565.

SERVICES

PETROL TANKS, WATER TANKS, OIL TANKS, ENGINE COWLINGS, SPLASH GUARDS ETC. MADE TO YOUR PATTERN OR DRAWINGS. VERY REASONABLE PRICES, GOOD QUALITY WORKMANSHIP.  
RING (01458) 210929. STREET AREA.

A COMPANY HAS RECENTLY STARTED UP PRODUCING TARPULINS, TENTS, COVERS, HARNESS ETC. IF YOU REQUIRE COVERS FOR ENGINES, TRACTORS, TRAILERS ETC. GIVE TIM HORLER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON (01373) 454354. THE COMPANY IS CALLED 'STITCHCRAFT'.

+++++ CONGRATULATIONS +++++

WARMEST WISHES ARE SENT TO MARG AND BILL APPLEBY AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ON MAY 24TH.

WISHING YOU BOTH EVERY HAPPINESS ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY AND FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.