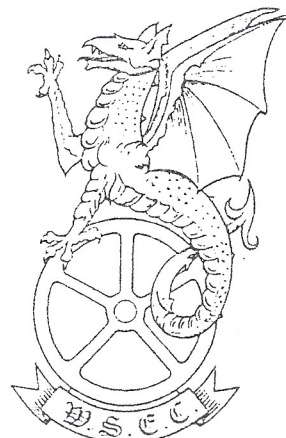


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

MAY 2002

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NEWSLETTER



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

Most of the reports I receive for this newsletter comes from one source, namely our fourteen year old junior reporter. What I would like to keep the newsletter interesting is more information about personalities, i.e. you the members. Any reports on birthdays, anniversaries, new purchases, new projects, or any thing else under the sun please let me know

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

Where the hell were you ? The crank – up at Nunney Catch on Sunday 28th April was very poorly supported. With a club that has 350 members only 20 of you could be bothered to turn up. Usually there is around 60 engines on display. I know the weather forecast was poor but that did not stop members turning up from as far afield as Basingstoke and Weston-super-Mare. I do not intend wasting my time attending committee meetings helping to organise events for you to attend if this is the miserable support they attract. The answer is quite simple, you either use them or you lose them. In contrast the crank-up organised at Radstock Museum attracted the amount of engines required and was a huge success, and the local press featured the event in two local papers. My thanks to everyone who took part. The rally arrangements are all in hand and we shall start setting up on Monday 10th June at 6-30 pm, putting in the posts, pegs, ropes etc, any help would be appreciated.

******* BIRTHDAY GREETINGS *******

The club would like to wish a very happy birthday to the following members. Jackie Lambert our long serving Treasurer (18 years) who had a birthday on the 16th May, and Bert Holloway from Fawley Hampshire who was 74 years old on May 6th. Many happy returns to you both, and best wishes from all the club members.

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

Just a line to say a very sincere and a big thank you to all the Wessex Members that displayed and helped with the marvellous display afternoon at our Radstock Museum on Sunday afternoon, the local papers of Radstock and Frome both acknowledging the popularity and interest the display offered. It is also our intention of printing a full report and pictures in our summer "Five Arches", I will send a copy to you when that edition is printed. Once again, a big thank you, and it was so good to see the support of your President Robin Lambert, and Chairman Brian Baker both displaying their engines on the afternoon. Sincere and best wishes to all, on behalf of Radstock Museum, Dennis Chedgy.

CRANK-UP AT NUNNEY CATCH TRANSPORT CAFÉ

SUNDAY 28 th APRIL 2002

Unfortunately, this crank up did not seem to be so well attended as last years, perhaps due to the driving rain, with the bottom end of the Transport Café carpark being flooded with water, and howling wind. I was also disappointed that I could not exhibit my newly restored Enfield, as the governor does not seem to be working properly, but any help would be greatly appreciated. 20 engines were in attendance, including one gas engine and a Roto-Gardener rotovator. As always, many engine exhibitors also brought small items and tools to sell, and these were in their usual place in front of many engines. An addition to the engines was a collection of petrol cans and motoring related signs. Non stationary engines were a Ford Anglia Deluxe, and club member Arthur Smith's Willys Jeep, as reported last newsletter. The stationary engines included such exhibits as a 650 rpm 5hp Lister Junior, an unrestored Lister "D" driving a (also unrestored) Lister H3 700 rpm pump, and a welcome change to green engines, a Powell 5hp engine, painted an attractive shade of blue-green (aquamarine?). This is its first rally, and I'm reliably told that it can run on heating oil! Towards the end of the row of engines was a Stuart R3M, an ex-boat engine, driving a small prop and running like a dream. Next to this was probably the oldest engine in the club, a circa 1896 gas engine, originally run on town gas, and probably used to power a small lathe or sewing machine. One engine that seemed to attract a lot of attention was Kim Siddorn's Vincent Marine engine, the 500cc Lifeboat engine, which he has only owned for 10 days. This strange looking engine was designed by Phil Vincent to be used in Pacific rescue missions during the Second World War. It was designed to be used to power airborne lifeboats, a complete aluminium shell which is dropped to men in the water by aircraft, and could run 1,000 nautical miles on just 50 gallons of petrol. Unfortunately, development and a slow Air Ministry meant that the engine was not produced until 1949, by which time the war was over. Because of this, only 50 engines were produced, a dozen being known to exist now, and this engine is s/n 14. The two stroke, opposed six engine weighs just 256 lbs and has a water cooled inlet manifold and exhaust. Although the engine has six pistons, they share a common combustion space, so there are only three bores. The centre bore provides compressed air for the two outer bores, the left hand bore opening and closing the inlet ports and the right hand bore the exhaust ports. Because the gas only moves in one direction, it is known as a Uniflow engine. Although Kim has not tried to start it yet, the only things missing are the ancillaries cover which protects the starter, generator and magneto, and the recoil starter. I look forward to seeing this unusual and interesting engine at a future crank-up or rally. To sum up, bad weather caused a lowered attendance, but the engines which were shown were interesting and varied. Another good crank-up.

JONATHON HOCKEDY.
JUNIOR REPORTER.

***** BOOK REVIEW -- A GOOD READ *****

This book is one of the best I have ever read, and if you have a love of the past, and of steam traction engines and ploughing engines in particular I recommend you read – **A LIFE WITH STEAM- JOE CHALLIS**. Published by **FINIAL PUBLISHING** on behalf of Buxworth Steam Group, Barren Clough farm, Buxworth, High Peak, Derbyshire SK23 7NS. The book is hard back and has 292 pages, my copy cost £24 but it is worth every penny.

Eric J. Gay.

***** CLUB COACH TRIP *****

The annual coach trip this year on **SUNDAY 4th AUGUST** is to the **MUSEUM OF WELSH LIFE ST FAGINS** Nr Cardiff. The Museum of Welsh life is one of Europe's biggest and most exciting open-air museums. Here you will find centuries of Wales social history gathered together in 100 acres of beautiful countryside. The fare for this trip is only £6, payable on the day, admission to the museum is free. To make certain of your seat, because it is on a first come, first served basis, ring Jackie now on – 01373 463526.

***** **BEHIND THE SCENES** *****

Firstly a big thank you to all who supported Mells Daffodil day. It was our biggest display ever with around 40 engines. I hope you all liked the new location as some three weeks before the event Jackie and I had a look at the site which was pretty much under water, and large trees had been felled and were still where they fell. A telephone call to the organiser said they would be removed but it was no matter to us as we were being relocated to the area under the car parking slope, to my mind not a good location as the rainfall off the hill could only go, yes you have guessed it, right where the engine enclosure would be, and despite my pleas to remain on our old position it fell on deaf ears and it was there or nothing. Two weeks from the event Tony Davis and I paid another site visit and the ground was still like pudding and one week from the date I was contemplating ringing you all up to ask you to call in the day before as to whether or not to make your journey. Well as you know the ground dried out and only one person got stuck (bad luck Dot and Derrick) and it all passed off without a hitch. A big thank you to Tony and Grandson JP for all the help with setting up and again for removing the pens. I contacted the organiser to see if they had a good day and I was told that they had made around £4000 which was spread between the Church and the Village School. I thought they must have done very well as the car park behind the engines was full, and they told me that they had another car park west of the villlage almost as big!!! Thank you again for your support and hope to see you all again next year.

ROBIN.

***** **SOMERSET VINTAGE FARMING SOCIETY CRANK-UP** *****

***** **SUNDAY 21st APRIL AT CLEEVE** *****

My main reason for attending this event was that it was a Memorial Rally for the late John Moore, who like many other Wessex S. E. Club members I had known for a long time. I will always remember him for his cheery happy nature, and his ability to offer help and advice when required. John loved the vintage rally scene and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. This little event at Cleeve playing fields was a really tranquil site, with a cricket match taking place nearby, the tennis courts were also in use, and there was a well equipped play area for the little ones, and the clubhouse bar was also open if you wanted a pint. Approximately 25 stationary engines were placed around the perimeter and a few motorcycles, a couple of vintage Rolls Royces and only one or two tractors dotted around the field, a bit short on tractors I thought ! but after lunch around 50 tractors appeared and filled up the field centre as they returned from a road run. A nice raffle took place which even included a stationary engine, that was donated by the Moore family. The sad note of this day was when I had a chat with Johns wife Lyn, she told me that most of Johns engine collection had been stolen, and gave me a list of what had been taken – 20 engines in all !!!! Quite unbelievable that someone would have the callous nerve to do such a dastardly thing. Lyn gave me the list of what was taken so that we may all keep a vigilant eye on what is offered for sale with the hope that the thieves are caught.

Robin.

***** **EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR** *****

MONDAY JUNE 24th. Club night at The Old Down Inn. Rally Autopsy followed by Table Top Auction. Followed by a quiz, Wessex Club versus South Somerset Club.

SATURDAY JULY 20th. Claverham Big Night Out. The Wurzels live, disco, licenced bar, hog roast, B,B,Q, side shows etc. Vintage engines, tractors etc, camping. For further details ring George Atwell on 01934 833193. Or mobile 077779122819.

MONDAY JULY 29th. Club Night. Crank-up at The Court Hotel Chilcompton. Usual raffle, cup for best engine and most unusual engine.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY 3rd 4th AUGUST. Vintage Weekend at Farmer Giles Teffont Nr Salisbury. For details contact Tony Carter on 01749 813967.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1st. "MENDIP MAYHEM" at Brian Fears Garage Oakhill. Car boot stalls wanted. Sorry no overnight camping. For more details contact Roger Pike on 01761 233028.

***** CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN *****
MONDAY APRIL 29th 2002.

The last Monday in the month seems to come round faster and faster, or am I just getting older? Monday the 29th April saw the room at the Old Down Inn full to bursting point with members to hear a talk and slide presentation on the industrial history of the region, this covered Bradford – on – Avon, Trowbridge, Westbury, Bath, Radstock and as far north as Ironbridge. The Reverend Alan Newman began by thanking us all for inviting him back once again as many of you will know he has visited us before. The first part of Alan's talk covered the cloth mills of Bradford – on – Avon, now mostly of them sadly gone or left to decay. For me there was a surprise in store for when Alan showed a slide of the recovery and saving of the bells that were rung every morning to call the workers to Kingston Mill in Bradford, who should be stood alongside the bells as one of the recovery team but my late uncle who worked as a maintenance engineer for the Avon Rubber Company. The old three storey cottages in New Town Bradford – on – Avon, were built as weavers cottages with the top rooms being used as weaving rooms. Well on the subject of Bradford, many years ago it had another name locally, snuffy town, now believe it or not this came about by the weavers taking large amounts of snuff, this was done to clear the dust and flock out of their noses. (not many people know that) Well after the mills of Bradford – on – Avon we travelled with Alan to see slides of the woolen mills of my home town Trowbridge, again sadly these once great and in most cases lovely buildings have been destroyed by progress, or so we are told. A few bits of a once proud industry remain, Salters Mill or the part that is left is now a restaurant. The Trowbridge Museum has saved a good deal of the machinery from the local cloth mills. Alan took us on a picture tour of many more mills, one that I know well, and is well worth a visit is Stoford Mill, nr Farleigh Hungerford, the mill stands on the river Frome and was driven by a water wheel, but this has long gone, but the building is still in good condition. As Alan talked about Trowbridge it brought back many memories for I lived for many years in a small weavers cottage until the council came along and tore them down. This was once again a wonderful evening full of interest and not without a laugh or two, so once again the members present had a very good evenings entertainment. Thank you Alan for giving us such a good evening.

Eric J Gay.

***** **THE MARKET PLACE** *****

FOR SALE Petter type A11 1.5 hp. 750 rpm. £60. Ring 01373 455673 after 6pm. Ask for Ivor.

FOR SALE to the best sensible offer. One Lister "D" and Lister H2 pump, direct drive on Lister cast base. Plus 2 lister D's for spares. All in need of T.L.C, missing silencers. Ring Tony on 01373 464982, or call in and have a look and a cup of tea. Frome Area.

FOR SALE Bristol Wagon and Carriage Works VICTORIA engine. 3hp. Serial No. 591. Preobable date 1910. Flat head, front side vented crankcase, rear mounted chain driven magneto, inertia governor, cast plate. Requires a little welding and engineering work to make good. Original trolley, tanks, handle. Non original exhaust. Has remains of battery and coil ignition. £950. Ono. Ring Tom Randall on 01761 418926. Midsomer Norton Area.

WANTED 10cwt geared trolley. (for supporting pulley blocks on RSJ) Ring Gerald on 01934 852670.

WANTED for a Petter 2.5 hp Junior Safety Oil Engine 1920. A cast iron oil bottle with brass adjuster valve, or drip feed oiler, maximum height three and a half inches, with long thread at base to screw through fixing bracket. Ring Eric Gay on 01225 754374. Trowbridge.

***** **NEW MEMBERS** *****

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club would like to welcome the following new members. Mr & Mrs R.G. Warfield from Westbury Wiltshire, Mr P. Chivers from Radstock and Mr & Mrs M. Feeney from Radstock, we sincerely hope your membership of our club will be a long and happy one.