

Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. NOVEMBER 1982

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THE WHITE HORSE SHOW, UFFINGTON - August 29-30th 1982.

The White Horse Show was held as usual on a lovely flat site in the Vale of the White Horse, Uffington, Oxfordshire. I arrived on Saturday in brilliant sunshine which got to be quite hot. As the day wore on the rest of the Wessex contingent arrived, namely Reg and Mary Butler, Ann and Eric Brain, Mike and Jane Cannon - oh and mustn't forget Stephen Butler! Saturday ended up with the now traditional fry-up, but Ann, Jane and Mary more steady on their feet than I remember in previous years. Their brew this year was cider shandy; what's happened to the wine?

Going to the Show, which opened on the Sunday, the day itself was rather cold and windy although some people's day doesn't start until around 9.30a.m.; I wonder who that was?? The days events started with a gymkhana at around 10.00a.m., there was lawn-mower racing all day, which on occasions became rather fast and 'hairy', the exemption Dog Show, Sheepdog demonstration, Tug-of-War, and a lovely display of Vintage motor-cycles. The day was marred by a high wind springing up, and taking control of the roof of the model tent, which caused some rather hurried evacuation procedures by some of the exhibitors.

Monday dawned much brighter, but still rather chilly; the Heavy Horse Show began the proceedings at 10.00a.m., but other events going on in the field included the Scouts band, the Old Berks Hunt, Tossing the Caber, Model Aircraft, (flying was a bit limited due to the wind!!), Post Mail Coach rides, Autogyro flying, Guards free-fall team, Sheffield Boys and Girls Band, Radio Oxford broadcasting live from the Showground, Johnny Chuckles Magic and Punch and Judy Show, Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment Display Team, Archery, Royal Green Jackets, as well as all the usual craft exhibitions and stalls.

As for the stationary engines, the Wessex Club was represented by Mike Cannon's 5hp Petter Apple-top in its original BLACK (yes Mr. Munt ... BLACK!!). The exhaust emission was closely monitored on this machine and it was found to be clean, otherwise EB would not have left his VW parked so close!, really unbelievably clean...!! Eric Brain had his ever faithful, starts on the fly-wheels, 2½hp Amanco Hired Man, Reg Butler his 7hp Stuart Turner twin as well as his newly acquired Wolseley Smooth Pot WD I which has recently been imported from 'foreign' parts, (the land of the Gurt Pasty!) and yours truly was showing the Crossley 1040 3hp and generator set. Messrs Lambert from Swindon/Cambridge had their display of Listers and Jim Miller from Chideldon had his D-type powered pumping set. Other than Wessex engines at the show worthy of a mention were the Hercules of K.B. Bridges, driving a Woods grinding mill, the Melco and Bamford mill of Pat Malin, the lovely 4½hp Massey-Harris of Graham Renaut, and the super 1920 Bamford open-crank 2½hp of Ian Tarr. All in all, this show really keeps up the standard that it always had, but unfortunately this year, for the first time, it was rather spoiled by the weather turning wet and messy during Monday afternoon. Perhaps next year we can return to the traditional Uffington weather?

Generating Jones

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Following an interim Treasurer's report at the last Committee Meeting, it was decided, regrettably, to increase the Club's Annual Subscriptions for the subscription year commencing 1st January 1983. Members already having paid for 1983 will not be affected. This follows a dramatic increase in the cost of the Club's Third Party Liability Insurance Policy, which, as stated previously, now covers drag-saws and certain types of ancillary equipment. It is also due to the ever increasing costs of stationery, printing, and above all, the postage of this Newsletter. New Rates are as follows:

Joint Membership (Husband & wife, Fiance & Fiancee, or whatever!!)	£5 p.a.
Single Membership	£4 p.a.
Junior Membership (under 18 years) remains unchanged	£1 p.a.

We stress YET AGAIN, that a Junior member cannot be insured under our policy unless he/she is aged over 16 years and will be accompanied at any time he/she is running an engine by his/her legal parent or guardian who is ALSO a fully paid up MEMBER of the W.S.E.C.

Our Insurance Policy is NOT valid outside of the United Kingdom.

In order to compensate a little for the increase in subscription rate, and to help members plan their rally year, it is hoped to give a W.S.E.C. Diary to each member as they pay up for the new subscription year. Any extra diaries required will be subject to a small charge. Why not rejoin early and get those rally dates down?!

Diaries will be reserved for those members who have already paid for next year.

JOHN KYTES GARDEN RALLY NO.8 - 2nd & 3rd October 1982

Held at the rear of John's house and spreading onto the lawn of the Pub next door, the 8th Rally was all set to spring into life on the first day when....down it came, that dreaded RAIN. One always sympathises with the organisers when this happens as all their efforts to set things up seems to be all in vain. Nevertheless, Sunday did turn out to be a glorious day transforming the garden into a hive of activity. About thirty engines, were in attendance, ranging from Lister D's to a massive Ruston-Proctor, (see Stationary Engine Mag.No.104) belonging to John himself which ran beautifully all weekend and never seemed to miss a beat. Two nice Ruston-Hornsbys belonging to B. Merryfield and M. Harris ran superbly as did a nice enclosed crank Bradford driving a sludge pump, this was owned by Mr.A.Crittell.

Kookie the Clown kept all the children amused while the Mums and Dads viewed the exhibits. A small organ played next to Tom Smith's Stand of Bygones and in the centre of the lawn the Pewsey Merryweather fire-pump stood with its brass fittings gleaming. Also a new attraction was a set of juvenile Rocket cars spinning around all day giving the children rides. The cafeteria ladies were busy too, dispensing food and hot drinks. A Lister D was raffled for 50p per ticket, and was won by A. Barnes of Poole - a very cheap engine!! So, to sum up, it was a shame about the weather on the Saturday, but I'm told this was forgotten in the Pub in the evening... and Sunday was compensated by being sunny. Well done John, here's to the next one.

Rob Lambert (Unexpurgated by Ed....!!)

FAIRFORD RALLY - 21st & 22nd August

We were able to arrive at Fairford Park early on the Friday as Len had a leave day due to him. W.S.E.C.members, Ray and Pam Saunders, closely followed by Terry and Shirley Heath, soon arrived; so we all went down to the market square where Mr. Wharton's Showman's Engine, 'Supreme' was powering John Keeley's 89 Key Limonaire Organ, to the delight of a large crowd. When we returned to the park, we found the rally field gradually filling up with exhibitors and market traders. Saturday dawned bright and fine after a good night's rest; so after breakfast I went to the bakers for freshly baked bread and a dough cake, and later took Shirley on a conducted tour of the village. After looking around the shops and St.Mary's Church, we visited an Arts & Crafts Exhibition and then walked down to Fairford Mill, which is in a very picturesque setting. At the rally, there were about half a dozen W.S.E.C. members exhibiting, out of approximately 100 engines booked in. We looked around the stalls for the last time before packing up for the journey home, after a very enjoyable weekend.

THE FULL QUART CRANK-UP - Hewish, Weston-Super-Mare - 3rd October

What a beautiful day! After the continuous rain the previous day, such a contrast in the weather! We arrived at Hewish about tea-time on Saturday and were greeted by Ron Cox and his fellow helpers at an ideal site for a rally, right on the A370 Bristol-Weston Road, and at a Pub!! The 'Full Quart' is such an unusual name and is backing onto the main railway line.

Early Sunday after breakfast, Len prepared the engine for the day's event, and I went to the nearby Wicker Shop with Shirley Heath, where there were on sale many very interesting articles made of wickerwork. Also numerous other items such as rag dolls, scented soaps, soft toys and a very unusual musical box in a miniature rocking chair with a doll sat in it. We returned to a hive of activity on the Stationary Engine field and Carol Cox busy selling raffle tickets. I singled out the nest of tables as the prize I would most like to win, so did everybody else, (who did win them?) and then joined Len in the packed bar with a number of his pals. Over a drink we wished everyone all the best for 1983 as this was our final rally this season and returned to the van for dinner. During late afternoon the brass plaques were distributed and we started to pack before the two hour journey home.

The Verdict? A very enjoyable rally which we all hope will be repeated next year.

Rene & Len Fry

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting drew an audience of fifty people to hear the Rev.Alan Newman give us a talk on 'Railway Miscellanea'. Having been brought up close to the railway at Twerton, Bath he has been fascinated by the steam railway engine ever since and is now the Chairman of Bath Railway Club. Rev.Newman admitted to us that often during harvest festival when that that well-known hymn "We plough the fields and scatter" is sung, instead of where the words say "and light the evening star" he sings to himself "and light 92220". 92220 being the number of the last steam locomotive built by British Railways and named in March 1961 Evening Star; she now forms part of the National Collection. We were also told about one of the foremost authorities on British steam traction who was also a member of the Clergy, one Bishop Eric Treacy, who died of a heart attack while he was photographing "Evening Star" on a special excursion at Appleby station on a very beautiful Settle and Carlisle line. So well known was Eric Treacy that one of the ex L.M.S. class 5 4-6-0 locomotives was in fact named after him. We were shown a small part of the Rev.Newman's enormous collection of slides and each slide was of special interest to us as many of them were taken in local quarries, iron works, dock yards, coal mines and the national network in this area. Several slides featured locomotives built by the Avonside Engine Works

which later became Peckett of Bristol. The Reverend's favourite steam locomotive was the London Midland and Scottish Railways 'Royal Scot' class 4-6-0 of which the first engine of the class, no.6110, is preserved at the Bressington Steam Museum in Norfolk. After seeing the final slides which were of steam traction in Sweden and Australia, the evening ended in the same hilarious way in which it started, with Rev.Newman telling us about a friend of his who is a stoker at Bath Crematorium! and then we were told that he used to be a fireman on the Somerset and Dorset Railway!! Having fallen off our chairs at that one, the Chairman thanked Alan Newman for an excellent and captivating talk, and we all wondered whether St.Pancras is the patron saint of railways or is it "St.George for England, St.Pancras for Scotland!" So another superbly enjoyable evening drew to a close with the delights of our guest speaker being complemented by the much improved layout of the Clubroom with the speaker down at the door end which enabled everyone to hear the evening's talk without the murmur of those who usually congregate around the door.

Michael Cannon

BATTLE OF BRITAIN AIR DISPLAY, R.A.F. ABINGDON - 18th September 1982

This year, for something completely different, we were invited to display a stationary engine at R.A.F.Abington on their Open Day. Armed with the 5 hp Petter 'M' Type we sought the, until that day, tranquil countryside of Oxfordshire. We arrived on site some four hours before the show started, the vast car park was already half full. We were ushered through onto the tarmac down one of the runways threading our way through five V.C.10's to shouts of "good heavens, the NAAFI canteen has arrived" and "it'll never fly". After finding our spot among the thirty or so other stationary engines we set off to investigate the many other displays on view. These included maintenance hangers with aircraft in various stages of assembly, communications display, weapons display and outside were many varied displays from the R.A.F. band to the many static aircraft on show, including a captured Argentinian helicopter. The air display commenced on the dot at 1.30 (sorry 13.30 hours!!) with a breathtaking show by the Red Arrows. The display was then continuous until 5 o'clock with 24 different aircraft taking part. The climax of the flying, especially to those interested in vintage machinery, was a display by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, namely, the last flying Lancaster, a Hurricane and a Mk.V Spitfire, which was put through its paces to the delight of the huge crowd. As the sun set, the remaining aircraft took off into the light westerly breeze and the stationary engines were loaded, the crowds crammed first into their tin-boxes and then into the many queues, this little corner of Oxfordshire once more became peaceful, and tranquility reigned until next years show. An excellent day out with something of interest for all ages. Per Ardua Ad Astra indeed!

Michael Cannon

FARMING RECUEIL (see Editor's Note), Long Ashton - 19th September

"Here we go again! another Sunday, sat in a field. The same old story. Sunny all week while at work, rain at weekend. Still could be worse!"

Quite a turn-out of engines, Wessex members fairly prominent, Len Fry, Gerald Harris, Derek Watts, Don Rogers and dog, Phil Harris, Roy & Ivor Cox, Brian (Sausage) Munt....and me". "What no beer tent???, good job it's raining or I'd dry out!!"... "Hello, what's this? its Dixie's Cider truck. Thats good, Draught Cider can't be beat when there's no beer!! What's this clanking noise? Surely it's not E.B's Amanco is it?... No, it's Colin Waite's Fowler ploughing engine coming up the road. This rain's getting me down, still it's quite a nice little rally even though there are more exhibitors than public". This cider's good," Nearly left out the drag act done so well by Don Crane. It's stopped raining...., There's Ray and Pam Saunders!!... Bernie has left his Organ at home; said he did not want the boy to play with it!?" "Here come the plaques, quite nice, better than most, even at bigger rallies". "Time for model exhibits now, aeroplanes, just like the real thing; nearly time to pack up now. It's raining, hope it stops soon". Reminds me it's nearly 'Stour-Mud time!'. Roy Cox had just won a prize in the raffle, a bottle of 'plonk', looks like 'Chateau Le Gateway Supermarket' surely this has already been drank before!!". Time to go now, Guess What??, the sun is shining! That's it then, the end of another one". Well done Bernie and the rest of the Club. (That's the best I can do, Eric..!).

Bernard Skuse

Editor's note: Farming RECUEIL? Recueil, in my quite comprehensive French (why French?) dictionary, I find that "recueil" is a transitive verb meaning 'selection' when applied to poetry or anthology of verse. You may ask 'what has that got to do with farming?' Search me! Now, as anyone with a half-decent education knows 'recueillir' is a verb meaning 'to collect'. Perhaps this is what our rally organiser was aiming at? However, the verb 'recueillir' is irregular, hence the past participle should be 'recueilli'; the present participle 'recueillant'. Let us Stationary Enginemen limit ourselves to 'Japy Freres, Bernard-Conord, Ajax, Douge Freres, and Renault...!!

FOR SALE

Lister D, Petrol-Kerosene, Complete. £25. Various windows suitable for van conversions, etc. Offers. Ian Skuse, Tel. Yatton 834943.

Lister D crankshaft with bearing. £1; Wolseley WDII piston, con rod and various other parts, £3; Lister D petrol tank, £3; Set of iron wheels, curved spoke, 15" dia., very rusty, £3; similar 6-spoke, £4; similar 5-spoke, £4. Mark Tilly, Corsham 712854.

Wolseley WDII restored on trolley, £35; Lister D 3/4-restored, £25; Lister Junior, part restored, £50; Lister domestic water-pump, restored, £15; Lister D incomplete - offers; Tel. Hawthorn 810243 (Wilts).

WANTED

Belt Pulley, 5" diameter, to fit Wolseley WD2; contact Len Fry on Salisbury 24273.

Information on Villiers Flywheel Magnetos, or any spare parts especially coil, also Central Heating oil tank, 250 gals. or less, no more than 5 ft. long. Might possibly swap for 350 gal. one in good condition. Editor, Temple Cloud (0761)52633.

Information on type of magneto fitted to 150cc J.A.P. engine of the early 1930's. Can anyone help to locate one. G.J.O. Wallis, 7 Fourth Ave., Filton, Bristol 7. Tel. 0272)697815.

Information on Bamlett horse drawn mowers. Ian Skuse, Yatton 334943. (Presumably those fitted with 'Bernard' engines? Ed.).

Petter M type 3 hp side plates, magneto, cylinder head, carburettor, in any condition, even broken. Clive Sealey, 145 Westfield Grove, Yeovil 75001.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hawkchurch Vintage Rally, Scouse Caravan Park, Hawchurch, Dorset - 1st/2nd May 1983. Send entry by letter only to Wally Hull, Kymore, North St., Axminster, Devon or telephone Wally on Axminster 33153.

CLUB EVENTS

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| December 4th | Club Jumble Sale at St. Peters Church Hall, Westfield, Radstock. This is a most important fund-raising event to help subsidise the Dinner & Dance of the previous week. Show your appreciation of the evening by coming along and bringing any jumble, toys, books, and especially bric-a-brac, to sell to restore Club funds. If you can't come, please send. Doors open 2.00 p.m. promptly. Hall usually open from mid-day onwards for helpers. |
| January 31st | "The Crofton Society". A talk on the Berkshire Pumping Station, and its beam engine. |
| February 28th | The Annual General Meeting. Held, as always, in the Club Room at the Old Down Inn. This is your chance to voice your opinions as to the running of the Club, and instead of taking a back seat, get onto the Committee and take an active part. Also pay your 1982 (revised) subscriptions! |
| March 28th | "Cindy" at last, by popular demand we have the infamous epic about restoring a traction engine. Certain Club members who have seen this film, are still a bit breathless when they talk about it. We promise you an evening to remember!!! |
| April 25th | "Diesel Engines". A talk by Mr. Day of Bristol. |
| May 23rd | "Going Dutch". An illustrated talk by Pete Steele and Graham Escott about their experiences rallying last year in Holland. |
| June 27th | Another of the very popular "Crank & Buy" meetings at the Old Down Inn, Emborough. |

AND FINALLY, just to show how 'full' a Quart can be!....

I think everyone will agree what a successful event, blessed with a fine and sunny day, was the Full Quart Crank Up. The amount raised for C.L.I.C. was £214, a really superb effort by everyone who exhibited, and for the public who supported us so well. With 50 stationary engines, tractors, a steam roller, lawn mowers, two organs, and a couple of vintage cars, no shortage of beer or water and a really friendly atmosphere, what could go wrong!!

Many thanks to all those who helped us make this a very enjoyable day.

The Cox Brothers