

Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. November 1983

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***** USEFUL ADDRESSES

Chairman: Ian Skuse, 12 Southlands Way, Congresbury, Nr.Bristol. Tel.Yatton 834943
Vice-Chairman: Robin Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Somerset. Tel.Frome 63526
Hon.Secretary: Diana Emery, 'Odstax', Wells Rd., Hallatrow, Nr.Bristol. Tel.Temple Cloud 52939
Treasurer: Stuart Ashman, Moorledge Farm Cottage, Knowle Hill, Chew Magna, Nr.Bristol. Tel. Chew Magna 2655
Newsletter: Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr.Bristol. Tel.Temple Cloud 52633
Tee Shirts & Sales: Tony Jones, 59 Marsh Rd., Trowbridge, Wilts. Tel.Trowbridge 5351
Raffles: Herb Gane, 45 Welsford Ave., Wells, Somerset. Tel. Wells 74402

Other committee members are Brian Munt (Windscreen stickers), Michael Cannon, Claude Lowther, Jackie Lambert, Brian Verrall, Mark Tilly. The Club's President is Tom Randall of Midsomer Norton.

***** THE SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

The September Club meeting was held as usual at the Old Down Inn, Emborough and was opened by our Chairman, Ian Skuse. After a few announcements, Ian introduced Mr. Terry Sanger, Sales Director from Villiers Industrial Engines Ltd., who was guest speaker for the evening. Now if any of the 40 or so members present thought this was going to be another boring old talk, this time about Villiers engines, they were mistaken.

For the first part of the evening, Terry covered his way of life from when he left school and joined the Bristol Aeroplane Company as an apprentice in the design department. He soon realised that his interest was with designing and building motor cars. This led to one of the most entertaining and humorous talks which we have had for some time as he described with the aid of some excellent slides, some of the antics and escapades he and his friends got up to while racing cars and motorcycles; both here in Britain and on the continent. During the break, Herb Gane performed his monthly ritual, extorting money from our pockets with the raffle. Prizes of a ladies and gents wrist watch were won by Don Rogers and Wally Camp respectively.

After the break, our speaker told us a bit about Villiers Engines and their struggle for survival since becoming a co-operative. Terry and his associates rescued the Industrial Engines side of the business and, not without some difficulty, turned it into a going concern. All in all, a very entertaining evening.

Brian Verrall

***** LYNNE CASTELL

Members may have seen the popular Tractor and Engine line drawings and colour prints beautifully executed by local artist Lynne Castell. Lynne is pleased to announce that her latest print is now available...ladies take note - if you are stuck for that appropriate Christmas present! THE RUSTON HORNSBY 5½ hp PETROL PARAFFIN ENGINE...black on white card, 12"x10", price £1 + 50p post and packing. Hand coloured, 12"x10", £6.50 + 50p post and packing. Send SAE for NEW illustrated price list to: Lynne Castell, 23 Kensington Rd., Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 3QR.

***** STOURPAINE BUSHES STEAM FAIR

This brief report is being written whilst sat in my misted-up caravan at the rally. It is Sunday morning and I am watching visitors and exhibitors slog through the squelchy mud on their trek through the rows of engines. How do you describe mud? Oozy, Tacky, Thick? I really don't know, but as usually happens, there is plenty here at the moment. I feel more like a war correspondent waiting for the Mons Retreat, which I'm sure will happen just as soon as the exhibitor's deposit of £3 is refunded.

Enough of this despair...we have had two dry days....weatherwise!

Friday was the sale day with few engines running as their owners probed around the engines offered. There were fewer engines for sale this year; the usual Petter and Lister...roughish, rougher, and really rough! two nice little gas engines of about 1½ hp caught my eye; both had parts missing and one had frost damage. They sold for £75 and £135 respectively, perhaps we shall see them both restored and working here next year.

There never seems to be enough time to see everything here, even with three days to spend my trip around the engine enclosure seems all too brief. However, some eye-catchers were to be

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seen such as Ernie Luxton's 1½ hp Victoria which ran superbly and was beautifully restored. A small Frank Hartop 1½ hp drew a lot of attention from the crowd; this engine came from Jersey in the Channel Islands. A large engine which also drew a crowd was Don Porte's 8½ hp Crossley type NN, (funny how a crowd always gathers when you have a starting-up problem), but this engine was soon coaxed into life with its small donkey engine. Star attraction in the fairground area must surely have been the Steam Yachts built by Savage of Kings Lynn in 1903 - a very rare ride. The steam engines in the centre were controlled by an engineer who was kept constantly on the go, operating all the valves and levers. A small vertical steam engine drove the built-in organ. Three Wessex members were to be seen hanging on for their lives in one of the boats as it went almost up to the cross bar.

To sum up the three days we were very lucky with the weather, it only rained at night! For myself, the magic of Stourpaine which I feel had deminished over recent years, had returned at last.

Robin Lambert

AND

We left home on Wednesday evening for Stourpaine, a short run for us, got sited, cooked dinner and later retired.

I awoke to the sound of rain and thought 'here we go again - wellies on'. After breakfast we went for a walk around the site, then again in the evening. Once more the pitter-patter of rain woke me during the night but Friday morning was fine so after breakfast Len went to his engine while I had a look round the stalls. The day was showery but that did not deter the real enthusiasts; Keith Reader, Tony Jones, and Pat Malin came as spectators. We had a look round the showground again in the evening. I awoke early Saturday morning to the sound of heavy rain once more.

I went around the stalls in the morning and in the afternoon we were pleased to see Eric and Ann Brain who were glad of a cup of tea! (Not forgetting a welcome sit-down..Ed.). After covering his (Len's that is) engine up for the night, we went for a ride on Noyce's Gallopers, the first time for years! Heavy rain during the night made the ground muddy but sunshine all afternoon helped to partially dry out the ground so we packed up in the later afternoon having spent an enjoyable few days.

Rene Fry

FULL QUART CRANK-UP, 2nd October 1983

Sandwiched between a damp Saturday and a soaking Monday was the GEM of a Sunday. The rally venue was the Full-Quart Inn near Weston-super-Mare. Engines of all shapes and sizes, a really good selection of many makes and types, including Warwick Eagle, Victoria, Blackstone, Powell, Kelvin, Crossley, Fairbanks, R&H, not forgetting the Abtus, were assembled along with tractors, cars, a couple of fair organs and stalls on the pub lawns alongside the car park. There was plenty at this small one-day event to keep everyone happy. Lots of Wessex members were present and it was nice to meet each other once again at the event which for many was the last of the season. All proceeds were for CLIC and a mammoth raffle was organised. The ladies selling tickets did a lovely job and were kept busy all day. They even ran out of tickets to sell....! Fiftyfive prizes were donated; would you believe the first prize went to Raffles himself..Herbie Gane! Well it did. Herb won a lovely nest of tables, bet Wendy was pleased she let him out for the day! And who got the booby prize? Yes, Brian Munt...and we look forward to seeing a new-look 'sylph-like' figure emerge from the winter months (Brian won a 'foundation garment' - now he should really know how those SAUSAGES feel....Ed.).

All in all, a very enjoyable day to end our rally-season; well done and thank you to Roy and Ivor Cox and their families and all who helped in the excellent organisation.

Marion Wilson

As you all know, the Full Quart Crank-Up is held in aid of CLIC- this year's Crank-Up raised £219 plus £70 collected on the stall. This rally season we have also been collecting at rallies with Derek Maybee's CLIC Treasure Chest Box, this raised £100 plus £8 at Tony Jones' Garden Party; when added together, the grand total is therefore £397.

Our thanks to everyone who exhibited or helped us in any way, especially for all those super raffle prizes... Ah yes, talking of prizes, we all hope to see Brian Munt sporting his brand new whale-bone corset on the rally field next summer; the one he won on the draw at Hewish.

Roy and Ivor Cox

ATWORTH RALLY, August 28th and 29th

For those who were there on the Saturday evening, this became the night that 'Wessex Members do it in the dark'. There we were enjoying one of Tony Jones' barbeques and would you believe it? the lights failed! Still, not to worry, it was all sorted out in the end and a lovely weekend was had by all. Quite a lot of Wessex members were present and Sunday night found them all square-dancing in a large marquee to the 'Pig's Ear Band'. What talent was revealed! It was lovely to see Marg Appleby showing us the way and everyone including Kookie the Clown, joined in. After that Wessex took on Wales in a friendly rounders match (Who won....Ed). There was lots to see and plenty of stalls and exhibits, also a parade of the usual vehicles, tractors, motorbikes, etc. and lots of stationary engines, of course.

This event seems to go from strength to strength and deservedly so - well done to the organisers for a lovely weekend.

Marion Wilson

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Abbey Hill Steam Rally, Easter Weekend 1984, closing date 28th February. This Event will be held at Lufton Trading Estate, Yeovil. Send to Terry Heath 'Tershi', Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset for full details, entry forms, etc.

Ystrad Mynach Rally, August 4th and 5th 1984. Rally Secretary is Gordon Jones, 48 Manor Road, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, Gwent.

CLUB EVENTS

Dinner & Dance: Frome; for those members reading this at the Munt Magic Lantern Show, next Saturday, Dec.3rd is the Club's Social Event of the Year. If you are still trying to decide, it may not be too late...for those of you who receive this Newsletter by courtesy of the vagaries of the Postal Service, it definitely is too late. However, music is supplied by the Farmer John Disco and it promises to be an evening to remember. There is no other Club Meeting in December.

January 30th: A slide show by the Trowbridge Camera Club of Traction Engine rallies, Fairground Organs, and other items of related interest.

February 27th: Annual General Meeting. Come along and perhaps offer your services to the running of the Club by joining the Committee or have your say if you are harbouring any useful suggestion.

March 26th: A slide show by Mike Cannon 'The Narrow Gauge Railways of Wales'

FOR SALE

New service spares for Norman T300 engines, Send SAE for list or phone for details; Amanco Hired Man, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hp, petrol-paraffin, unobtrusive HT conversion, just needs trolley and is ready to rally. Features in article on engine collecting in Farmer's Weekly some years ago. £175. Barrie Thomas, 'Creekside', Greenbank Road, Devoran, Truro, Cornwall. Tel. 0872 862046

Pair of Amanco flywheels 20"dia. £10; Frank Hartop 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hp, vertical M type, hopper cooled £70; Victoria 5 hp in pieces, restorable and 98% complete £170; Boulton & Paul vertical, not seized but governor housing broken, as found £30; 2" Lion Pump with fast and loose pulleys, very similar to Amanco No.1 £55; Fairbanks, Morse 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hp, in working order but needs making original £160; various magnetos £10 and £15; two oilers, suit Petter M. large 'Forsym' type £10 each; copies of type W.O. Bernard instruction booklets 85p each incl. p&p. (Eric Brain can give intending purchasers of these engines full descriptions, etc.). Transport of these engines from distant Truro can be no problem, they can be collected from Bristol by prior arrangement with the vendor at no extra charge! Kerwyn Harris, 30 Hillcrest Ave., Truro, Cornwall. Tel. Truro 73388.

One heavy duty (yes HEAVY duty) winch complete with cable and set of rollers. Suitable for lorry or large trailer £25 ono. Mike Cannon, 19 Eagle Rd., Batheaston, Bath Tel. 859536.

Bamford EGI, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hp 1946, in running order; Wolseley WD11, finned hopper 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hp, runner; 2 Lister D types, one early, one late; all open to sensible offers, to view phone North Trowbridge 782215 (day), 782042 (evenings) and ask for Dave Edwards.

1929 Ford Model A, one ton truck with spare engine and gearbox. Phone Yatton 833056 with sensible offers or to view.

Cast brass reproduction nameplates for Victoria engines £5.50 each; Petter A1 engine, complete, suit newcomer to our hobby, £5.00; old Blacksmith's pillar drill, £5.00; Automower motor-mower 18" cut £5.00. Tom Randall, Midsomer Norton 418926.

Crossley open-crank engine complete with integral air-compressor, about 4 hp, single fly-wheel, float chamber missing, otherwise complete, offers; Stuart Turner P4 ex-GPO, coupled direct to 50 volt generator, all complete and mounted on original bedplate, offers; Wolseley WD2; Lister D type, both in good complete running order, also offers Stuart Ashman, Tel. Chew Magna 2655.

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Lister H2 pump, fully restored, £55; dynamo/motor, 24 volt, 33 amp, £25; dynamo and control box ex.JAP charging set, 12 volt, 9 amp, £25; Villiers air-cooled engine, ex. cement mixer, £25; Please contact Tony Jones, 59 Marsh Rd., Trowbridge (5351), Wilts.

Tiny Tim Generating Set, 12 volt, 2nd World War, £45; Alco Featherweight charging set, £40; Norman T300, 24 volt generating set, £40. Contact Martyn Denham, 35 The Butts, Frome, Som.

All spare parts for Teagle Minor engines as fitted to Jetstream hedgetrimmers are available fairly cheaply exclusively from T.G. Hicks, Lower Banns, Mount Hawke, Cornwall. Tel. Porthtowan 890518.

Allis Chalmers Model B, 1939, runner with spare tyres, £175, contact Mr.G.Payne, Stogursey, Bridgwater, Som., Tel. Nether Stowey 732374.

Lister A-type 1937, restored to rally condition on trolley. Tel. Mike Mason on Frome 62309 evenings, £70.

Blackstone Lamp-Start 6-7 hp engine, at present dismantled but complete including lamp. Twin flywheels, approx. 1919. Tel Mike Long in first instance Tiverton (0884)254146 evenings after 7.00 p.m.

WANTED

Crankshaft and 16½" flywheel, 1³/₄" rim, 1½" bore, for 2 hp enclosed crank Bradford/Amanco. Also brass plate for front of a Wico EK magneto, would also consider a back-plate. Kerwyn Harris, as above. Truro 73388.

Trolley wheels, 10" dia. or 14" dia. by 4" wide (two required). E.J. Day, 21 Rutland Cres., Trowbridge, Wilts.

'Giles' Cartoon books by collector, especially nos 1-15 & nos 18, 21, 22, 31, 33 singly. Also 'Wade' miniatures (animals) and Crest China animals. Tel Eric or Ann Brain, Temple Cloud (0761)52633.

BOOK REVIEW

'Know your Lister Types H.J.K.L.M.N.P.Q.R' by David W. Edgington.

If that worthy Greek philosopher, Aristotle, was right when he announced that 'the object of all work is leisure' then David Edgington is due for a very long holiday! This latest compilation of engine history is obviously the result of many hours of candle-burning, delving deep into old records, studying faded contemporary photographs and catalogues, and double checking information. The product of all this energy is a 40 page booklet, well printed on good quality paper, crammed full of technical facts on the Dursley-produced engines in a very readable style. It includes a series of articles which hitherto appeared in the Stationary Engine magazine and has 70 illustrations. Should you have missed these articles or would like to have them all together plus more for easy reference, or if the wife, girl-friend, (or both!) or fiancée is still wondering about that 'special' Christmas present, then this companion volume to the earlier Lister D and Wolseley booklets is a must. Reasonably priced at £3.00 post paid, direct from the author at his usual address.

Eric Brain

HELP.....

Now the engine rally season is over, the trickle of contributions to this Newsletter has dwindled to just over zero! I have managed to 'hold over' a report on Heddington and Stockley Social and another of Woodlarks Rally, but this is all. Bearing in mind our competition for the best Newsletter article and the advent of the dark, cold evenings, how about YOU putting pen to paper describing YOUR latest restoration, rally experience, or anything YOU would like to see aired in print on the Stationary engine theme.

Remember.....it's YOUR club.....it's YOUR Newsletter.....!!

Ed.