

# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1992.

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### KUBOTA EVENING.

I wish I could say a vast crowd of club members thronged the Old Down Inn to hear the talk on Kubota products on Monday 28th September, but I can't, just the usual faithful. Those who did not attend, however, missed an interesting talk on Kubota's range of products.

After the introductions we had a video to watch, Kubota started a surprisingly long time ago about a hundred years in fact, making cast pipes, they then went on to make engines and then on to the empire it is now, making compact tractors, diggers, mowers and a fair range of engines to power, well almost anything, one of their major customers being Ransomes for use in their mowers.

They have built factories in several countries, the U.K., one being in Thame, Oxfordshire, so they can tailor the equipment to suit the country, because when they shipped mowers over from the U.S.A. they found they would not work on our grass, it was the wrong kind of grass. I think someone once worked for British Rail.

On the video it showed them irrigating the desert and producing green fields and crops, I cannot remember why they did this, they said they wanted to improve the world and help mankind, but I think the desire to earn a few bob is in their somewhere.

When the video ended there was a question and answer session, questions on engines and he hid behind the fact that he was a tractor rep.

We all clapped him good-bye and the raffle manie took over, our new method of attracting lady members worked well, they won all the raffle prizes, hope that they are not going to do this every month. I cannot remember who won what as I was trying to sell club badges, key fobs, sweatshirts etc. So the next club meeting, all of you who want note books and the like bring your money and buy some. Anyway the excitement of the evening was beginning to die down and so everyone made their way home to bed!!

VIC.

### OBITUARY'S.

It is with great sadness that we learn of the death of Charles Cawood. Charles, a colourful Yorkshire man was well known amongst stationary engine and tractor enthusiasts for his invaluable knowledge on our hobbies. Often seen at rallies with his book stall, his services were always in great demand. He was probably our country's greatest authority on Amanco engines. Our condolences go out to his wife Sheila and his family.

Also with regret we learn of the death of Don Crane who tragically died following a car accident. A long standing member of our club, Don made many friends and will be sadly missed.

It is also with great sadness that we hear of the death of Wilf Crouch of Trowbridge. Many of you will remember Wilf and his late brother Les plus their dog in the early days of rallying. Tony Jones and Mary Butler represented the club at his funeral.

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A DECEMBER CLUB NIGHT.

MONDAY AUGUST 24TH - CLUB NIGHT at the Old Down Inn.

We held a Bring and Buy in the car park. I arrived to find seven vans and cars plus a trailer, selling engines, bits and pieces.

A car trailer with 3 Villiers engines and 2 Petters, a van with a Villiers pump unit, another selling a Petter engine and Lister 'A' spares and John with his horizontal for sale.

The weather was not very kind to us as it was a nasty wet night, as darkness came we all headed to the club room for a chat and to read our newsletter and not to forget Eric's famous draw, not to good with who's who but two prizes went to Oakhill. In spite of the wet night I think everyone had an enjoyable night.

TED ROUTLEY.

ATWORTH VINTAGE RALLY - August 30/31st - A DIFFERENT VIEW.

As this rally was at the end of our annual holiday we decided not to take the engine but to take Sid's model ships instead. This saved us lots of hassle going down the farm for the trailer when time was limited.

We arrived early Saturday afternoon to find quite a lot of people already organised and a car boot sale in full swing. Weather was fine but windy and everyone was talking about the storms which were forecast for the weekend. Anyway come Saturday night we all had a very entertaining night in the beer tent with MacBarry from Warminster who kept us entertained with songs from all eras and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Sunday morning arrived very windy indeed after a very rough and stormy night and one of the first things to greet us in the model tent was the request 'can you all move to one end please as we are bringing the bar up here'. The next minute was even more upsetting! The beer tent was down! The large tent had completely ripped down the centre, luckily most of the people in the tent had just managed to get out and John Bonner who was doing the lighting, was just removing the last fixing on the lights when the tent decided to part above his head. Well that was it - the refreshment ladies, the bar and the crafts and the models all ended up in the one tent, and very enjoyable time it turned out to be. Lots of people came to see the few models there were - I think the refreshments and the beer all helped of course! and Kooky the Clown making balloon shapes. We had another good evenings entertainment from MacBarry and he was joined by Fred Wedlock and between them we had a great nights singing and laughing.

Monday was lovely and sunny and lots of people came to see the many engines, motor-bikes, cars, tractors etc. which made a very enjoyable show.

Many thanks to Alan Doddington and family and the committee who did a wonderful job over the weekend.

MARIAN WILSON.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

DECEMBER 6th (SUNDAY) - WINTER CRANK-UP AT THE OLD DOWN INN.

DECEMBER 27TH (SUNDAY) - THE GREAT MINCE PIE CRANK-UP at Nash's Timber Yard, Evercreech Junction (Near old S & D railway yard) on the A371 between Shepton Mallet and Castle Cary. 10.30am onwards, free refreshments, coffee, tea, mince pies, sausage rolls etc. If you cannot bring an engine turn up anyway for a natter, it will be a good excuse to get away from cold turkey and the washing up. The event will be held subject to weather conditions - anything over 10ft of snow please ring first!!!!

FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING BRIAN BAKER ON 0749 - 34267.

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FREE TO A GOOD HOME

B.S.A. 420cc stationary engine. Would make a good project for a junior member. Just ring Mike Harmsworth on 0380 - 870548 and it's yours to collect. (Semington area).

FOR SALE Lister 'D's, Petters 'A', 'A1' and 'W1A', Villiers & pump, JAP and sheep shearing set, Lister DP7 pumps. Contact Mr. Griffiths - 0874/730014 (South Wales).

FOR SALE Ruston Hornsby 1½hp P.B. 1944 - £100 ono. Lister Diesel - year unknown - £75 ono. Also folding bicycle - Offers. Apply to 20 Tor View Avenue, Glastonbury, Somerset.

WANTED For Lister 'D' a fuel tank and exhaust box. Contact Bernie on 0225 743533 (Bath).

WANTED A Wipac/Wico series A Magneto for a Wolseley WD11 engine, also starting handle and other bits, please contact: Ted Routley on 0749 640322.

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COACH TRIP.

We are discussing the possibility of running a coach trip to the Black Country Museum at Dudley, Birmingham on August 15th next year, so anyone interested - please make a note of this date. Speaking recently to members that have visited Dudley since our last trip, say they have added to the site, more things to see and generally it is a very good day out.

TREDEGAR HOUSE VINTAGE & SPECIALIST CAR RALLY - Sunday 20th September.

This rally must be the largest one day show we attend. It is held in the grounds of Tredegar House & Country Park. This was their 13th rally and is held to raise funds for much needed research into Leukaemia, in fact since the rally started in 1980 the sum of £120,000 has been raised.

Before I go any further I will admit this report has been based on the entries as in the programme because as you will see it is impossible to look for any particular make or model. General cars, that is ones not entered under the name of a club totalled - 332 and included makes such as Austin A40 Somerset, Hillman Minx, Riley Pathfinder, Singer Vogue MK1, Chevrolet Biscayne, Ford Consul, Morris Oxford, Vauxhall Cresta, Austin Seven Ruby, Hillman Imp, Wolseley 16/60, Daimler, Triumph 2000, Jensen Interceptor, Ford Model T. Tourer, Ferrari and many more. These range in date from 1914 through to 1991.

Then we come to the individual owners clubs - Lotus, Marcos, Stag, Jaguar, M.G., Classic Sports, Morgan, Ford. A.V.O., Scimitar, Triumph Sports Six Club, T.V.R., Westfield, Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club, Morris Register, Cambridge Westminster, Austin A40 Farina, Hillman, Sunbeam Talbot Alpine - I could go on with more but I won't. In total there were 482 cars entered in that section alone. I am sure a lot did not arrive due once again to the weather and ground conditions, but there was a steady stream of cars entering the site for most of the morning.

The stationary engine section was well supported as usual, although some had contacted the section marshall and told him they would not attend because they had to park caravans, etc. away from the engines, but I feel this is going to happen at a lot of rallies as safety regulations begin to come into effect. The Wessex Club was well represented.

Tractors, commercial vehicles, motor cycles, military vehicles, models and a fairground organ all added to make this a very excellent one day show.  
REG & MARY BUTLER.

FULL QUART CRANK-UP - Hewish - Sunday 27th September..

Once again, as often happened before, an early morning downpour threatened what is to lots of us the end of the rally season, and what a better way to spend it than at what many of us call Roy and Ivor's do.

My arrival was a bit on the late side partly owing to Gerald's last minute effort at reducing the capacity of the huge 40 gallon cooling tank on his Lister engine by installing a discreetly hidden 5 gallon tank inside the big one, and partly down to the effects of Hazel's home made wine consumed in large quantities the night before. Everything was in full swing when we arrived and then it happened once again, the luck of the Cox's, the sun came out and the early morning dampness was quickly burnt away. It must have been a record year for exhibits as the field was full, engines were all the way around the perimeter, plus two small enclosures and a line of tractors, vintage cars, motor bikes, models and a superb Foden Steam Lorry. The Marshall Traction engine that our club had at Semington was also there.

Organ music gave the show just the right atmosphere. A huge raffle took place later in the afternoon with more than 60 raffle prizes, this in itself was good entertainment by Malcolm Fleet as he called out the numbers. A live steam miniature railway kept the children happy as it went up and down it's track on the edge of the car park, as did the battery operated life size pedal cars and Tony and Mike Andrews gaily painted juvenile swing boats, which were also kept busy. A large wrecker truck turned up in the afternoon and was found about the only space left on the site. Well done to the Cox families and all their helpers. PS. Did attenders to this event spot the new fashions engine owners are sporting this season overalls to match the colour of your engine no less, I wonder if it will catch on!! Perhaps it will unless someone owns a Pink engine. ED.

AGM February 1993.

We will, at our next AGM be looking for a new Secretary, unfortunately Shirley is standing down, but she assures us all it will not be as difficult a job next year as the rally will be broken down into different sections thus considerably reducing the paperwork involved in running the rally. So if anyone would like to take over this post please speak to any committee member as soon as possible.

We shall also be looking for at least one new committee member, so nominations for committee members can be put forward with any matters that you as a club member would like to have brought up at our AGM.



WOODCOTE RALLY - CRAYS POND, NR. READING 18th & 19th JULY 1992.Rally Ramblings (2) by Dave Austin.

We set off again up the A4 to Theale roundabout, turned left for Pangbourne. Now at Pangbourne one has a choice of paying the sum of 6p toll to cross the Thames or driving down to Streatley and crossing the bridge to Goring on Thames, after due deliberation we decided to use the toll bridge, a very cheerful lady stood blocking the approach to the bridge and with a broad smile on her face slowly shook her head from side to side when I asked her if she would accept Access, Barclay Card or American Express. Being assured that to proceed across I would have no choice other than to pay up, I dipped into my beer money and paid the good lady the 6p.

Ten minutes later we arrived at the rally field where we were met by a committee member who kindly pointed out the areas that had been set aside for stationary engines, whilst driving along these lines we met George Ballard (the chap we met at Stoke Row). I asked George where we could park the caravan, with a sweep of his arm he said park where you like, looking in the general direction in which he was pointing I spotted a large level area of the field roped off, I asked George if we could park across the end of this, of course you can he said (with a broad grin on his face) please make yourself at home.

With all the setting up and unloading completed we set off for our usual stroll around the field, whilst passing a large white marquee I noticed that a flap at the side was unlaced, being an inquisitive sort of soul I poked my head in to see what was inside, the sight I beheld made me freeze on the spot. Marie sensing something was wrong came up behind me and asked if I was alright, I slowly held out my arm and said pinch me, why she asked with a puzzled frown on her face, I replied I think I have just died and gone to heaven, she said don't be daft you are not dead and you most certainly would not have gone to heaven.

Stretched out before me was rows of beer barrels stacked three high - for the whole length of the marquee. I thought my God if Brian and Ray Baker knew this lot was here they would be up here in a flash, what I had discovered was the real ale bar laid on by C.A.M.R.A. (the campaign for real ale), now being a member of this organisation, and an ex branch secretary, this is something I know a little about and to have the chance to try some of the famous brews on offer here was rather like an engine purist finding a rare engine.

Saturday morning I was up and about and in fair condition considering I had done my bit the night before to help preserve a bit of British Heritage. The dogs were taking me for a walk leaving Marie in the land of nod. However she was soon awakened by a mighty roar outside of the caravan window, she gingerly raised the blind a little to investigate and found herself looking into the propellor of a Tiger Moth aircraft, (hence the grin on George's face). We learned later that he had booked nine of these aircraft to fly into the rally field and this was the first doing a trial landing.

Due to strong winds and low cloud the rest decided it was too dangerous to land and put on a fine flying display instead, after which they went off to pick up passengers who parachuted down into the rally field. This was to have been repeated on Sunday but the cloud and wind had become worse, so the event was cancelled. We were informed that one of the planes had crashed in a corn field on its way back the day before, but the pilot was unhurt.

(A mass hot air balloon lift was also cancelled because of the bad weather conditions).

This was a good rally with plenty of entertainment, the climax of which was a spectacular firework display on Saturday night.

The line up of exhibits was as follows:-

- 23 steam engines of one sort or another.
- 62 Agricultural tractors.
- 66 Stationary Engines.
- 54 Commercial Vehicles.
- 77 Veteran & Vintage cars.
- 33 Vintage motor cycles.
- 5 Shire Horses.

This is another rally we would recommend, if a form is required, phone George Ballard, Tel. 0491 680635.  
DAVE AUSTIN.

ENGINE SEARCH.

A club member is trying to trace a stationary engine. It is an Eagle 4½hp - No. 1449. He thinks a Mr. Hazel from the Swindon area has it, so if anyone can help as to where it may be now please contact - Terry Heath Tel: 0935 28216 or Sherwood Joinery, Lufton Trading Estate, Yeovil, Somerset.