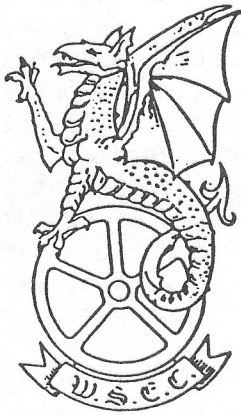


# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1996



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### \*\*\*\* EDITORIAL \*\*\*\*

For many years members of the Wessex Club have raised money for the charity C.L.I.C., due to the recent attention in the media about the administration of this charity, it raised doubts about its integrity. However if you read the letter from the present administrators, I have published in the newsletter, this should dispel any doubts we may have about supporting it in the future. My thanks to Roy Cox for allowing the letter to be used in this way and while we are on the subject of fund raising a special vote of thanks must go to Roy Cox and his family and the rest of his team for raising the magnificent sum of £1015.51 for C.L.I.C. in the past twelve months - well done to all of you.

### \*\*\*\* CHAIRMANS REPORT \*\*\*\*

At a recent committee meeting, we discussed subscriptions for 1997 and despite price increases in postage, printing and insurance we have decided to keep subscriptions at the present price of £8 - single, £10 - double, and £1 for junior members.

10th October 1996

Dear Friends of C.L.I.C.,

You have no idea what a thrill it is to write these few words 'friends of C.L.I.C.' - you are such wonderful people. Not only do you paddle around in muddy fields on a very wet Sunday, but you have faith in us to do the job for which this charity was started. In the first place you have achieved the magnificent total of £1015.51 and in the second you have helped some West Country families cope with the trauma of having a child with a life threatening disease. Carol has told me that a great many rumours have been flying around about the viability of CLIC. Have no fear, there have been power struggles at 'Board Room' level and that has now been sorted. Never, at any time, have there been any financial irregularities. All that is donated to CLIC goes to pay for the treatment and welfare of our young patients along with the money that we set aside for research.

As with other major businesses we have had to dispense with staff and axe the CLIC newspaper so that we can keep up the quality of care for which we are renowned. CLIC International has been closed down and CLIC U.K. will have to raise its own funds so that CLIC South West can benefit from the money raised here. I do hope that you will tell any ill-advised people that CLIC is still 'very much alive and kicking' and will go on doing what it was set up to do, until childhood cancer has been beaten. With friends like you we stand an excellent chance of doing just that. With many, many thanks for your wonderful efforts, once again, and very best wishes for all your future projects.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Dain - President of the Weston & District Branch of C.L.I.C.

THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO MR & MRS R. COX, 4 LAUREL DRIVE, UPHILL, WESTON SUPER MARE, SOMERSET.

\*\*\*\* SOCIAL EVENING AT CHEDDAR FOOTBALL CLUB - SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER \*\*\*\*

This very popular event has now become firmly established in the Wessex calendar as an annual fixture. It is the ideal opportunity for members and friends to get together and have a good natter and a good time without the hassle of wondering if the engine is still running, or its going to rain or other problems associated with a rally. This year it was really well supported with 50 members and friends turning up. Jackie and Robin Lambert volunteered as team captains for the skittles, they each selected a side and battle commenced. The only "spare" of the evening was by Ken Barnett who won a bottle of wine for the highest gent, and Carol Skuse won a bottle of wine for the highest ladies score. After the skittles it was supper time and our hosts at the Cheddar Football Club always put on a good spread and tonight was no exception, it was help yourself time to salad, cheese, jacket potatoes, pickles, bread etc. a really good repast, washed down with draught Bass, I really enjoyed it (Ray was driving). After supper we held the raffle, Linda Pike who usually sells the tickets was really 'crooked' up with a bad back and was unable to move from her chair so Mary Verrall offered to carry out the task, ably assisted by Brian. A really good selection of prizes were on offer and were distributed fairly evenly around the room as the winning tickets were drawn from the drum. I was really sorry when it was closing time and time to go home, but we shall be back again next year. I've already booked the alley.

BJB

\*\*\*\* FOREST OF DEAN STEAM RALLY - SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER 1996 \*\*\*\*

On October 20th Brian and myself left Shepton Mallet at 7 a.m. en route to the Norchard Railway steam rally at Norchard, Nr. Lydney. Arriving at about 8.15 a.m. after a very quiet traffic free journey (the Old Severn Bridge was completely deserted) we soon saw many familiar faces, many from Wessex Stationary Club. This is a particularly nice well arranged rally, a real credit to George Locker, John White and their army of willing workers. The rally is centred around the Norchard Steam Preservation Companys centre, this was built from scratch some years ago on a completely vacant site, to see it today you would think it was an original station of many years, it consists of booking offices, large workshop and many other small buildings with many items of rolling stock and railway artifacts scattered around some of the rolling stock are in various stages of preservation. The entry to the rally entitles you to ride on the trains on the couple of miles of track that they have restored so far, more is to be made available as time and money permits, we had a ride on a D.M.U. diesel then on a steam loco. The rally itself caters for various enthusiasts with a very large display of coaches and buses, many classic cars, motorcycles, tractors, steam engines, commercial vehicles and of course stationary engines. Later in the afternoon when the various awards were presented by the Mayor of Lydney, quite a few were won by Wessex members. The rally organisers award presented by George Locker was won this year by a group of people that has done much work from the inception of the rally in setting up the ropes etc they were Roy Cox, Ivor Cox, Don Rogers, Reg Butler and Roger Pike. In the stationary engines section Highly Commendable were won by Roger Pike with his Stuart Lighting Set and Brian Baker with his 4½ hp Ruston. In the motorcycle section Brian Verrall won a Highly Commended with his A.J.S. Well done lads, this is a rally that is well worth visiting.

RAY BAKER.

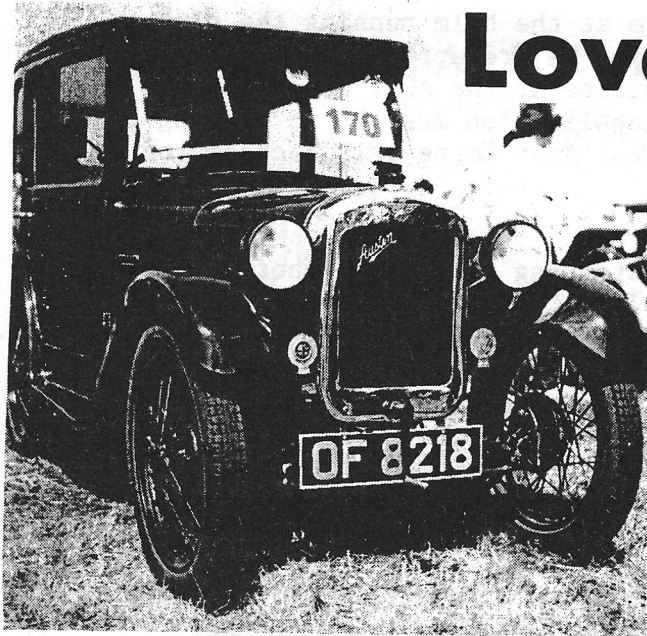
\*\*\*\* FULL QUART INN - CRANK UP \*\*\*\*

Wet and heavy rain seems to be a tradition every year on the night before the 'Crank-Up'. But this year it hung on until later in the morning making it a late start to the rally. We did not expect to see many exhibitors being such a miserable morning, but 8.30 sharp the first one arrived, then a steady flow followed, much to our amazement. We would like to thank all those exhibitors and helpers who braved the weather and supported us this year in aid of C.L.I.C. Exhibits were down a little otherwise well supported in the stationary engines, tractor, car, organs and miscellaneous sections. This year the sum raised at the 'Full Quart' was £654.26p add that to the old treasure chest that follows us around the rallies £158.15p a grand sum of £812.41p. With the help of the Mendip Crank-Up we were able to raise a further £203.10p, once again this little event was also well supported. The final amount donated to C.L.I.C. this year was £1015.51. Well done everybody and our many thanks once again.

THE COX FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.



# Love at first sight



It was love at first sight when Eric Brain bought his first car an Austin 7. No sooner had he sold it in order to buy something a little more modern than he yearned to be behind the Austin 7 wheel once again. So he bought another one in Exeter in 1963 and spent two years restoring it. Today, ten years later, it is running as smoothly as the day it left the Austin factory in 1930. Eric who joined the MST as an apprentice in 1959, today is Chargehand in the Assembly



Eric Brain and (left) his prize winning possession - Myrtle.

Shop. In his spare time he has stripped the Austin completely and now he knows it inside out. "One thing I didn't change was the upholstery", he told The Thrissell. "It is a moquette with a black and white check design, it is unusual to find a car which still has it these days". Normally the Austin is used by Eric's wife Ann, who gave the car its name, 'Myrtle'. ("Because the sound of the engine is 'myrtle-myrtle-myrtle'" explains Eric.) But at Weekends Eric, a member of the Bristol Austin 7 Club, takes Myrtle rallying and to other motoring events at Beaulieu and Longleat, where she has won prizes and cups. And she took part in a special three-day rally which marked the 50th anniversary of the Austin 7 Club. Myrtle seems to thrive on long journeys. "I've been to Cornwall twice and she has gone up some of the steepest hills in the West Country, including Lynmouth and Porlock", says Eric. "She has even bumped over the rough tracks on Dunkery Beacon quite happily". Eric's interest in cars and engine started in 1959 when he learnt to drive - on a lorry. At present he is busy restoring a 1930 Morris Minor. From time to time he restores vintage agricultural engines which he takes to traction engine rallies where they compete in a class of their own. Eric's oldest agricultural engine dates back to 1918. Surprisingly, spare parts for vintage cars are easier to obtain than those for Eric's modern MG Midget. "Manufacturers make spares and tyres for vintage cars periodically and when a part is required it is ready and waiting", said Eric.

## \*\*\*\* TENCREST 'MENDIP MAYHEM' - 6TH OCTOBER 1996 \*\*\*\*

Although this popular crank-up changed dates it proved to be a great success. The day although overcast saw a steady flow of visitors to see the display of some 30 engines, 3 tractors, 2 motorbikes and 5 vintage cars. 12 car boots had a steady flow of customers as did my C.L.I.C. stall, Mr. Frosts 'Teddy tent' and Mary and Brian on the raffle. Celebrations were also in swing with William being 11 years old on the day and Ivor Cox reaching a special birthday the following Tuesday. The day raised £203 for C.L.I.C. and £36 was donated to the Wessex Club fund. Roger and myself would like to thank everyone who helped us on the Saturday as well as the Sunday to make this rally a success, and of course thank you to those who turned up on the day to support us. This will definitely be in the rally diary next year - but keep your eyes peeled as the date may CHANGE.

Linda and Roger Pike.

## \*\*\*\* 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 TARPAULINS, 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'.

(4)

The Wessex Stationary Club has always had a good team at the helm running the club on your behalf, and as we intend to carry on that tradition we are appealing for you, the members to put your name forward to come on the committee at the AGM, and help make the decisions that makes this club so successful. Your application must be in writing 21 days before the AGM, (FEB 24th 1997). To our secretary Mrs. Anne Carney, 19 Beckhampton Road, Oldfield Park, Bath, BA2 3LL.

The Committee would like to thank Robin Lambert for stepping in at very short notice at the Oct. club night, when the advertised speaker could not come. His superb presentation of transport on the Mendips at the turn of the century could only be described as brilliant. Well done Robin, and once again on behalf of all the members present that night, THANK YOU. ED.

\*\*\*\*\* DIARY DATES \*\*\*\*\*

- SAT 7th DEC. - Christmas Steam Up Party. Stanton Drew Steam Up Site, in the Engine Sheds. 7 pm 'til Late. Admission only £1. Proceeds to Charity.
- SUN 8th DEC. - Anti-Freeze Crank Up at The Old Down Inn. 9.30 onwards. Grand Raffle. Bring and Buy. ENQUIRIES RING 01749 342671.
- FRI 27th DEC. - Mince Pie Crank Up at Nash's Timber Yard, Evercreech Junction, Near Castle Cary. 9.30 onwards. Free Food and Hot Drinks. Grand Raffle. Everyone Welcome. ENQUIRIES RING 01749 342671.
- NEW YEARS DAY - Road Run. For all vehicles from Stanton Drew Rally Site at Chew Magna. Watch this space for further details.
- WANTED - 20 - 30 engines for a Rally at Somerset and Avon Railway Association to be held at Radstock (Marcroft Old Wagon Works) for the 21st and 22nd June 1997. Entry Forms available later date in the New Year. Put it in your diary now. CONTACT 01761 452565 (CLUTTON AREA).

\*\*\*\*\* FOR SALE \*\*\*\*\*

- FOR SALE - 6 - Ford Transit Wheels and Tyres, Complete, in very good condition. £100 o.n.o.  
Roof Rack. £5.00  
Petrol Lawn Mower, Suffolk Punch £20.00 o.n.o.  
Lister Diesel CS20 Gasket Sets, Complete. £10.00.  
Electric Saw Bench 9" cut £30.00 o.n.o.  
RING ROGER PARSONS ON 01761 454565 (CLUTTON AREA).
- FOR SALE - Petter A 1 2 hp. 1940. Complete and running £40.00 o.n.o.  
TEL: MR. MELROSE ON 01179 832532 (WHITCHURCH AREA).
- FOR SALE - Lister Generator 230 volts 4½ KVA, single phase £80.00.  
TEL: 01458 210929 (STREET AREA).
- FOR SALE - Petter A 1 Petrol/Paraffin. 1940's. As found £30.00.  
TEL: 01373 466782. BILL APPLEBY.

ITEMS FOR SALE FROM OUR CLUB SHOP.

Note Pads	£1.20	Address Books	85p	Tax Disc Holders	30p
Car Stickers	60p	Club Badge	£1.75	Members Plate	£1.50
Cider Mug	£3.00	Cloth Badges	£1.00	Sweatshirts	£13.00
WSEC Log Sheet	10p	Combs	55p	White Mug (Sheriton)	£1.80
White Mug (Windsor)	£1.80	Pencils	10p	Pens	30p
Key Rings	60p	Tee Shirts	£5.50	Bookmark	65p

\*\*\*\* ALL WITH CLUB LOGO ON \*\*\*\*

FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE PLEASE CONTACT CHARLIE STEVENS ON (01749) 674819

OR ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER.