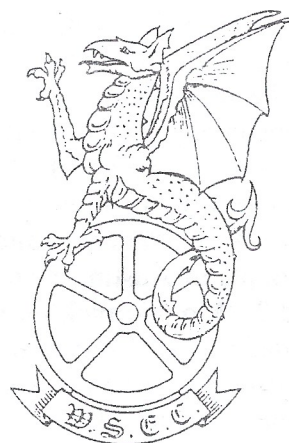


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

*The Editor : Brian Baker  
27 Wickham Way  
SHEPTON MALLET  
Somerset BA4 5YG  
Tel: 01749 342671*

NOVEMBER 2001

## **NEWSLETTER**



Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. All rights reserved

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

The W.S.E.C has at the moment the highest membership since the Club was formed all those years ago. It also has a very good programme of events each year, which is extremely well supported by its members, also the quality of the Guest Speakers and other entertainment at the monthly meetings is appreciated by the large amount of members who turn up each month. None of this success is by luck or accident, it is due to the hard work and dedication of the people you have elected to run your Club, namely the Committee. They give up a little of their time to plan all these events and meetings which makes the club the success it is today. This year with all its problems, is nearly at its end, next year hopefully will be better. One of the first events of the New Year will be the A.G.M. this is where a new committee will be voted in to run your club. I would like all members to consider putting their names forward to serve on the committee to maintain the success we enjoy at the moment.

### **\*\*\*\*\* CHAIRMAN'S REPORT \*\*\*\*\***

Our October meeting at The Old Down was well attended as usual to hear a brilliant talk by our own Rob Armstrong on how to dismantle and make safe a factory that had manufactured rocket fuel and explosives. We really don't know what talent we have within our club until someone like Rob entertains us. How he survived his career without blowing himself up is beyond me. The Committee has just about completed next years programme, including some very interesting trips, a visit to the Museum of Bath at work (bowlers) for one, and a return visit to Derek Hardwicks engine collection at Rangeworthy for another. Details will appear in due course in the Newsletter.

**BJB.**

### **\*\*\*\* FITZHEAD HALT AND SIDINGS OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>/21<sup>ST</sup> \*\*\*\***

This Annual get together at the home of our veteran exhibitor Alec Chambers of Fitzhead, Nr Taunton. As is the practise, many of us arrive early to help get the numerous stationary engines that drive generators that supply the power for the evenings festivities. Besides the many engines, there was a working stone crusher making hard core for the holes ably rolled in by Alec's Marshall roller 'The Fitzhead Flyer', under the guidance of Stuart Barnes in support of Alec's exhibits there was a line of some 20 engines brought in by invited friends with a good variety of tractors, cars and motorcycles. As darkness fell, the lights came up – a spit roast was kindled and that together with the B-B-Q that had been in progress most of the day, feeding the large gathering. The merrymaking went on until very late on Saturday and into Sunday morning. The atmosphere was wonderful. The dawn on Sunday morning was bright which proved to be the same as the previous day, drawing a large crowd. Alas all good things come to an end, and as the sun began to set, the keen band of helpers worked hard to repack everything into its place ready for the next time. Finally Henry was loaded up and left for home at 7pm. The visitors generously made donations to the British Heart Foundation for everything that had been offered to eat and drink was free. Alec, you are a great friend, and the friends around you are only too ready to help. We wish you continued good health and look forward to your continued company in the future.

**BRIAN LOVELL AND HENRY**



\*\*\*\*\*

**WEST OXON VINTAGE COUNTRY SHOW**

\*\*\*\*\*

A report by John Stoneman on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual show held by the Wychwood & District Vintage Club on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Foxbury Farm, Burford, Oxfordshire. The Wychwood and District Vintage Club has been formed for five years and up to this year held its Annual rally and a Weekend Crank-Up in October at the Blue Cross Animal rescue Centre at Burford, the site was unavailable this year so a new venue was negotiated. The Show has always been predominately for stationary engines; this year was no exception with 215 recorded entries in the programme. A wide variety of engines were on show including a Blackstone 6.5hp, a Campbell Little Samson 6hp, James Martin Boy of circa 1919, 2hp. Crossley Gas engine 5hp, 2 small Ingeco's 1.75hp of 1918 + 19 vintage one of which was restored and presented by Wessex member Ian Jones of Best Original engine at Nunney Catch Fame, for me the most interesting was a 1920's 20hp hot bulb Marshall, a most impressive engine. The Car, Commercial and Military sections accounted for 112 entries, the cars were mainly 50's & 60's, classics a couple of Austin seven Ruby's from the mid thirty's. Commercials sported a couple of Land Rovers series 2a and 3. Moggie pick-up van, a Transit MkI at the other end of the scale was a Scammel Crusader and an AEC Matador and for something different a Sentinel Aircraft tug of 1960. Military contingent displayed four lightweight Land Rovers, a Norton DR motorcycle 1940, Austin K9, Morris Commercial Personnel Carrier of amongst. The Tractor Fraternities entry was considerably larger this year with some 47 examples predominately from the Fordson and Ferguson stables. Some thirty different collections were displayed which included implement seats, petrol cans, bygones, both agricultural/horticultural and general. The more unusual being a collection of bank notes and coins also a collection of Air Rifles which included an executioners axe from the 16<sup>th</sup> century which the owner claims to be the third owner and that it had been used at an execution. Six steam engines appeared, they had not been entered in the programme, so I assume that it was a spontaneous attendance. The engines were Showman's Engine King George VI, Lord Nelson; this engine was once resplendent in Showman's trim having been specially ordered by Anderton & Rowlands of Bristol & Plymouth. Incidentally the engine was collected new from Thetford and driven in its showland working hay day by member Steve William's Grandfather. It has been converted in recent years to a Road Locomotive. What a shame! Also in the line up was Patrick Edwards Garrett Showman's Tractor, Tasker Little Giant, a Marshall agricultural driving a rack-saw and an Aveling and Porter road roller. A section, which always brings a nostalgic lump to the throat, is the motorcycles, this year thirty odd exhibits mainly of the 50's & 60's British biker hey-day. Not a Jap bike in sight, BSA, Norton, Sunbeam & Triumph, to name but a few, sweet memories of a long lost age. A show worth of note, it still manages despite its 'Topsy mentality' to retain a laid back approach, with not a Jobs-Worth in sight, and retains its stationary engine bias sheer bliss.

\*\*\*\*\* **WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY - 4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST** \*\*\*\*\*

I went with my family to Minehead on the train, as it was about time my Son had his train ride. As this was the date for the annual rally, the railway decided to have exhibits at various stations. At Bishops Lydeard there was one traction engine and a selection of buses and coaches. At Crowcombe Heathfield the Military had their display next to the station supported by 3 tractors. On the Quay at Watchet was a display of fire engines, together with several commercial vehicles, and in front of the station a selection of cars. Next was Washford where the Somerset and Dorset Railway Trust were busy shunting goods trucks up and down the yard. Finally we arrived at Minehead where there were 2 locomotives in steam, but in an adjacent area where the weekly market is held there were tractors, motorcycles, stationary engines, stalls and displays, alas Minehead had more than its fair share of rain that afternoon as the heavens opened about 1 o'clock and there was no let up for about an hour. Our time was up at Minehead, but the train could not leave on time at 2 o'clock, as a main line charter organised by Rail Tours was on its way down the branch line from London Paddington all 14 coaches of it hauled by diesel. On arrival at Crowcombe I met our former Editor Brian Crudge, now secretary of the W.S.R. association. We chatted and I asked about bringing the Fordson over on Sunday. So on Sunday The Fordson and I arrived and joined the display. I was pleasantly surprised to meet several of my former customer friends from years back while I was on field service, carrying out service and repairs for my employer Hawkes and Sons of Taunton. All good times have to come to an end, time had passed all too quickly. This had been a very different experience as the visitors had come both by car and by rail. Well done the W.S.R, I really did enjoy this day.

**HENRY'S GUARDIAN**



\*\*\*\*\* A GARAGE OUT OF TIME \*\*\*\*\*

Sorry there hasn't been any reports from me for a while, but I've been on holiday in Cornwall. However on holiday, I still managed to find a garage, which I think, may be of interest to many members. Unfortunately, on the way down our car broke down on the busiest and hottest day of the year, right in the middle of the A30. After a lot of hassle from the RAC, at 10.45, 10 ½ hours later we arrived at our campsite, only 15 miles from where we had broken down. The breakdown lorry driver thought the problem sounded like the timing sensor on the distributor and it took him longer to find his torch than it did to do it, in his words 'a semi-permanent' repair with two cable ties! A few days later, Mr Bridges, the owner of the campsite took my Dad out to Comeballacks breakers yard, which has 2500 cars, and found a replacement distributor. He then took the car to the local garage (or should I say timewarp!!!) Piled up outside were pieces of engines, oil drums, a rusty wood burning stove and half a car engine, but this was just the start! The doors appeared to be made from rotten ship timbers and must have been over a hundred years old. The sign above the door read 'Founded 1919', I don't think it had come much further since then! The bottom foot or so of the door was completely rotten and the windows were boarded up with pieces of cardboard and plywood. Nailed to one panel were two old metal signs, which I'm told go for £150 a piece at Beaulieu. The only lock I could see was a rusty old padlock on the inside, but it was hardly worth it, as anybody could just pull one of the door panels off. If it had been round here anywhere, it would have been broken into everynight! The owner's wife sold home-made cakes from a stall across the road, and the sign came out from behind the garage door. The roof of the garage was filled with cobwebs and pieces of wood, angle iron, rusty pieces of metal and tyres, including a pair of Morris Minor cross-plys! There was a bench all along one side covered in tools and oily bits of metal. If you stepped back from the bench, into the gap between the cars, you fell into a six-foot deep uncovered inspection pit. Rather dangerous with a six or seven year child running about! In a backroom were about 30 lawnmowers, pieces of engines, bonnets and doors stacked to the roof. Over the inspection pit were two Minis and a Peugeot 106, all being worked on by the owner 16 or 17 year apprentice, I should think it was going to take 30 years to train him! When he eventually got round to replacing the distributor, it took around ¾ of an hour, but only because he was chatting to locals who happened to be walking down the road. 'Can you do my car today?', 'Bring it in later', 'do you sharpen lawnmowers?' 'Leave it outside'. It seemed like this man fixed everything in the village, but these type of people have to be able to do anything, or there's no money that week. It amazed me that garages and men like this still existed.

JONATHAN HOCKEDY

JUNIOR REPORTER

\*\*\*\*\* MOORHOUSE WORKING DAY – SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER \*\*\*\*\*

An invitation was extended by Mr Terry Ayres and family to attend Moorhouse Farm, Holford, situated on the northern slopes of the Quantock hills to take part in a working day to be followed by a bonfire, fireworks and a B-B-Q. On arrival I assisted in getting several tractors out of store marvelled at Terry's collection of agricultural bygones. This time I had to leave my green companion at home, as when I pulled away the clutch in my lorry failed and so the day started with disappointment. An assortment of Ferguson, T20's and 35's, and a Nuffield ploughed a large area, then an International Titan driven by Alec Chambers graced the field and showed its paces with a plough. Terry completed the display by appearing with his Samson tractor that alas let him down mechanically. The evening celebrations were well supported, that must have given our hosts a lot of satisfaction as they had put a lot of effort into the whole event. I would like to say a big thankyou to Terry, Jane and family for such a pleasant day and hope that should they consider doing this again next year, more tractors might turn out in support.

BRIAN LOVELL.

\*\*\*\*\* TRIBUTE \*\*\*\*\*

It is with sadness we learn of the death of Benny Doel. Benny passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, aged 86. Benny would often arrive at Club events in convoy with his friends Bill and Roy who were a great help to him with loading and unloading his exhibits, as in the past few years Benny found this task more difficult. We will all miss his presence and cheery nature, and have all lost a good friend our condolences and sympathy go out to his Wife and family.

ROBIN



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

**SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER** – **ANTI-FREEZE CRANK-UP AT NUNNEY CATCH TRANSPORT CAFÉ.**  
9am onwards, café open for hot meal and drinks, usual raffle, prizes donated would be most welcome. Bring and buy bits for sale.

**THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** – **THE MINCE PIE CRANK-UP AT STON EASTON SPORTS CLUB.**  
This is only about one mile from The Old Down Inn towards Bristol. It will be sign posted from the main road. Hot mince pies and hot drinks available. Usual raffle.

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

**5 CWT TRAILER** 5ft x 3ft on mini wheels, needs tidying up £50 ono. Ring Bob on 01225 766208.  
Trowbridge area.

**COVENTRY  
VICTOR FLAT  
TWIN ENGINE**  
8hp, ex Fowler  
Crawler donkey  
engine £55.  
Telephone Neil  
on 01823  
681191.

**PEGSON WATER PUMP**  
On barrow type trolley £30.  
Lister domestic water pump  
on base with tank £55.  
Small rotavator, 2 stroke,  
old and unusual £10. Ring  
after 6pm on 0197  
4660949. Glastonbury area.

**RUSTON HORNSBY PT 1.5HP**  
In working order £80. Scammel  
engine, air cooled with water pump as  
one unit, in working order £120 ono.  
Petter 'M', 5hp with generator and  
back plate £350. Ring Martin or  
Andrew on 0117 967 5225. All must  
go.

**WANTED  
ANY  
FOREIGN  
BANK NOTES**  
to add to my  
collection.  
Please bring to  
club meetings  
or crank-ups or  
phone Junior  
Member  
Jonathan  
Hockedy on  
01373 473041.

**PITMANS BOOK**

On A30 and A35, covers maintenance and overhaul in home garage. First published in 1961 £8. Motor cycle battery, used for one week, only £12. Operators handbook for Petter diesel engine type DAZI, single and ava twin £5 each. Ring Tony on 01373 464982.

**B.O.C. ACETYLENE WELDING PLANT**

complete with torch, nozzles, gauges, cutting torch and tubes (no bottles) £25. Index rotary table, H and V, 5" diameter, 4" clutch, self centre £80. 3 large angle plates. 7x6x6, 1" thick. 6x6x8, ½" thick. 6x6x6, ½" thick £30 each. New felling axe £30. Piece 1" thick glass, 17" x 22" £10. End Mills 1/16 to ¼ - £2 each. 5/16 to 7/16 - £2.50 each. ½ to 9/16 - £3.00 each. 11/16 - £2.75 each. ¾ - £4.50 each. 7/8 - £6.00 each. 1" - £7.00 each. Several long 7/8" end mills, cutting length 3" to 3 ½" - £7 each. Telephone 01749 840413. Shepton Mallet area.

\*\*\*\*\* **NEW MEMBERS** \*\*\*\*\*

As Chairman I would like to welcome the following new members to the W.S.E.C., I hope your membership will be a long and rewarding one. Mr and Mrs S Davies and Lucy as a Junior Member from Shepton Mallet. Mr J R Patten of over Stratton, South Petherton. Mr F E Morgan of Hutton, Weston-Super-Mare. Mr Chris Hucker from Worle, Weston-super-Mare. Mr David Elms and Marion Sallows of Bracknell, Berkshire and Mr N Warrick of Hemyock, Cullompton.