

Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. OCTOBER 1983

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***** YESTERDAY'S FARMING

This excellent annual event was organised at the Royal Bath and West Showground by the South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Club. After a breezy trip up to Shepton Mallet, I put 'Ye Olde Fowler' in position, had a yap here and there, and then looked forward to Saturday.

Saturday dawned wet and windy; engines came from near and far from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Of all the excellent engines present, those I thought most worthy of note were Phil Harris' Blackstone, the display of Geoff Bryant and his mate especially the red Petter 5 hp (which took an award yet again), Simon Hawes' 1½ Hartop from Taunton and the two Listers of Mike Stokes from Bridgend. These latter were a Lamp Start M type generator engine with flywheels as high as the engine itself, the other, quite rare in this country, export model L type 'Apple Top'. All in all, 'Great Show' even if perhaps it was a bit scattered around the vast site; enough to prompt many exhibitors to comment that there were three rallies in one, a Shepton Mallet one, a Castle Cary one and a Glastonbury one, depending on which part of the rallyfield you were. However, roll on the next one next year.

Chris Gulliford (The Fowler Man)

Yes Chris, it was a good rally from an engineman's point of view, with something for everyone. Particularly enjoyable was the full use made of the Showering Pavilion with all the craft stalls and the Folk Dancing. We also liked the goat show and the cast iron seat display. An engine which caught my eye which Chris seemed to have missed was the very early Bamford 4 hp of Mr. Philips from Cannington in its original fine livery. I also appreciated the partially restored National Gas engine owned by Pete Holloway from Yeovil. A feature of the engine side of the show pointed out to me by a non-engine minded visitor was the very high proportion of exhibits with no description of what they were. Perhaps the inclement weather had some bearing on this; a bottle of waterproof ink could be the answer next year....! Ed.

***** THE CLUB MONTHLY EVENING MEETING - August 1983

This meeting filled the Club-Room to overflowing for the talk and slide show about the restoration of the SS Great Britain presented by Mr. R.J. Bradbury. The slides showed in great detail the recovery of the ship from the Falkland Islands, the bringing it up the River Avon and at its present site in the dock where it was constructed. The comprehensive and instructive talk held our members spellbound, touched on the life of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and led on to the future of the great ship. Then it was question and answer time; this was very satisfactory as there were so many questions and it shows that members must be interested in the programme which the Club organises for them. They don't all come for a pint and a chat, it seems! Some of the questions almost beat Mr. Bradbury and he had to check in his references. I wanted to ask why the helmsman had such a small binnacle! So far it has cost 3/4 million to restore the ship and has taken thirteen years.

Plenty of books, neck-ties and other Great Britain items were on sale and Mr. Bradbury sold quite a lot. The monthly raffle was run by Brian Munt this time as Herb was reputedly still mowing his grass...and that's all I can remember. I did not make any notes as I am writing this for another committee member who failed to turn up for the meeting in his turn for his literary offering. Thanks to all who came and supported the Club, and to Mr. Bradbury for his efforts; hope you all got home safely.

Ian Skuse

***** THE ELSAN RECYCLING UNIT

Following last August's comment in this Newsletter, the Editor has had a slip of paper passed to him bearing the following cryptic message..."The member from Keynsham who recognises an Elsan Recycling Unit when he sees it, is advised not to linger too close to it as the Unit may well recognise HIM....."

***** SALE REPORT

This sale held at Farrington Gurney, near Bristol, on September 24th by Messrs Wicks & Pierce was attended by a good sized crowd. The 18 engines and sundries made high prices, in many cases well over their actual value although some were by comparison quite cheap. Only one engine was withdrawn, presumably because it had not reached the required price. The prices were as follows: Lister D Ricardo 1929 approx., Class 2 unoriginal condition £36; Wolseley WD8 1950, Class I, £54; Ruston Hornsby PT 1944, Class 1 £66; Petter M said to be 1920 but most of it was more like 1923, except the nameplate which was clearly off another

engine, £170; Fowler PA, Class 1, £80; Lister D 1950, Class 1, £30; Lister A 1939, Class 1 £85; Lister A, Class 1, £95, (withdrawn); Petter air-cooled Universal, Class 3, £28; Bradford 1938, Class 1, £110; Wisconsin 1940, Class 1, £24; Coburn 1940, Class 1, £31; Crossley 1926, model 1040, Class 2, £70; Lister A 1924 single flywheel, Class 2, £34; 2 Lister D types, Class 3, £20 and £14 respectively; Wolseley WD8, listed as 1938 but probably 1948, Class 3, £26; JAP air-cooled with a little water pump, £28.

Other items of associated interest were two trolleys suitable for engine mounting, £20 and £18; Lister hand-driven sheep shearer, £50; Horse clipper, £20; seed drill, £35; butter churn, £58; Godwin water pump, £27; corn mill, £49; pulleys, £1 and £3.

Being local, many of our members were present including Eric Brain, Tom Randall, Terry Heath, Michael Cannon, Rod Dring and family, John & Stephen Emery, and Diana who was waving her arms about all over the place trying to ward off a persistent wasp. I thought she was bidding but she obviously wasn't, perhaps it was her actions that ran the bidding up so high.

Bill Coombs.

FAIRGROUND ORGAN

On Saturday, 10th December 1983, the 52 Keyless 'Dean' Fairground Organ, owned and presented by Mike Dean of Whitchurch, Bristol will play an organ recital from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Trowbridge town centre. A street collection will take place, all proceeds from which will be donated to the Cancer & Leukaemia in Childhood Trust (CLIC) and this task will be carried out by members of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club. The Organ will be sited by kind permission of the Kwik Save Supermarkets PLC and the Midland Bank.

WESSEX WORLDWIDE!

The fame of our Club is spreading! A pal of mine who is a model aircraft enthusiast, was working for his company in Johannesburg, South Africa when he spotted a sign which read 'The Rand Society of Model Engineers'. He decided to have a look around whereupon he spotted a large Ruston Hornsby engine so took a photo of it to show me on his return. A gentleman, obviously a local by his accent, asked him of his interest and it came out of the subsequent conversation that my pal lived near Bristol, England. 'Oh' said the gentleman 'The you must have heard of the Wessex Stationary Engine Club...!! My friend was impressed. The gentleman, by the way, turned out to be Arthur Prescott who often writes in the 'Stationary Engine' and whom some members met at the 1000 Stationary Engines Longleat Rally in 1979.

Eric Brain

WEDDING BELLS

The Club sends its congratulations and best wishes for the future to Alison Dring and Tony Barratt, who were married on October 1st at Horfield Parish Church.

RESIGNATION

We regret to announce the recent resignation from the Committee of Gerald Atherton due to a further education commitment. Gerald has been on the WSEC committee for some 18 months and has made a really active contribution to the running of the Club. We would all like to thank him for his efforts during this latter period.

HARRY CHAMPION

A Petter A-type given to the Club by Harry Champion shortly before his recent death has been accepted by Lackham College of Agriculture for display in their museum. The engine will bear a brass plaque suitably inscribed to the effect that it was Harry's and was presented to the museum on permanent loan in his memory by the Wessex Stationary Engine Club.

DINNER AND DANCE

Full details of this popular event which takes place at Frome on December 3rd were in the last Newsletter. If you haven't already filled in the booking form and submitted it with the money to Diana, please do so as soon as you can please to avoid disappointment. Here is the menu to tempt you to hurry up.... Vegetable Soup

Roast Beef with roast or creamed potatoes, choice of peas, carrots or sprouts, horseradish sauce

Apple Pie and custard or Gateau

Cheese & Biscuits followed by coffee and after dinner mints.

Entertainment is by the very popular 'Farmer John' Disco and Country Yokel-style amusement. It promises to be a night to remember...and all for only £5.50 per person (non-members welcome). This price includes a free welcoming glass of sherry on arrival.

WROUGHTON RALLY (Science Museum Open Day 1983)

We made an early start as we had previously decided it was too cold to take the tent and exhibits had to be in place and working by 10 a.m. On arrival at the airfield, we were directed to what looked like one of the last outposts of civilization. The hanger we were to be beside seemed to be away from the main part of the exhibition by several miles.

Undaunted, out piled 3 children, me, Herb and the dog. When the wind hit us we all immediately got in again! However, Herb added several more layers of clothing and ventured forth to unload the Bulldog. Encouraged by other brave Wessex members we all eventually got out of the car and discovered it wasn't too bad REALLY!

The airfield was regularly covered by a fleet of old buses provided by the West of England Transport Collection. This meant that it was easy to travel from one hanger to another on one payment of 30p. The children soon took advantage of this. Other Wessex members present were Mr. M. Cannon and Fairbanks Morse Z, Mr. D. Cleaver with his Coventry Climax 2.75KVA Generator, Mr. W. Appleby and his 1908 Bristol Wagon & Carriage Works Engine and a Massey Harris Mill, Mr. R. Lambert brought his 1923 Lister B and a Richmond & Chandler Mill and Mr. S. Ashman his Amanco $1\frac{3}{4}$ engine. The party was concluded by Mr. J. Miller and 1926 Ruston engine and Godwin Water Pump, Mr. E. Brain and 1930 Ruston Hornsby engine and pump, Mr. T. Jones and his 1926 Crossley engine and generator and finally Mr. R. Butler and his 1944 Wolseley engine and water pump.

The hanger we were closest to contained a collection of some 50 or more tractors dating from the early 1900's. I was particularly impressed by the sheer size of a V2 rocket. There were several other rockets and a mock-up of a moon buggy looking as if it had been constructed by Emmett.

As a certain members' engine did not seem too keen to start, we decided to go 'en masse' for a trip on the aforementioned buses and were very impressed by the collections in the other hangers. These included aircraft, lorries, fire engines, marine engines, cycles, motor cycles and cars. There were also various outside events - firefighting, threshing and model aircraft to copy just a few from the programme!

The weather improved during the afternoon and with a little coaxing by Michael Cannon the reluctant engine was started but it seemed it was too cold for a certain other members' Crossley to venture forth and it remained snugly wrapped all day. In conclusion the rain kept away and a good day was had by all.

Wendy Gane

WESTONZOYLAND PUMPING STATION

Having once had a Club visit to the moorland pumping station at Westonzoyland, near Bridgwater, and, more recently been involved in a small rally there one Easter, members may be interested to know that the First Steaming of the Station was recently shown on TV and that the Trust held a Steam Open Day on October 2nd. The Club congratulates Ian Miles and his hardworking team on this satisfactory culmination of all their efforts and wishes them well for the future. Watch out for details of Steaming Weekends in the local press, we are sure a brief visit could well turn into an interesting couple of hours.

FOR SALE

Petter M type spares:- Catch Plate, Fuel Pump assy., Crankcase plate, Carb assy. (round-type), all from a very early engine. Pump plate assy., air plate casting, carb. governor plate, from a 3 hp M type engine. Piston and con-rod complete from a 5 hp M type. Offers to E.J. Gay, 21 Rutland Cres., Trowbridge, Tel. Trowbridge 4374 after 6 p.m.

Roto-scythe Mower, 1947, in running order but throttle assy. missing. Cheap to a good home. Keith Huggett, Roundwood Cottage, Brokerswood, Westbury, Wilts. Tel. Westbury 864184.

Hartop $1\frac{1}{2}$ hp, around 1940, runner. Mr. K. Harris, 30 Hillcrest Ave., Truro, Cornwall - will accept £70.

Lister A type, $2\frac{3}{4}$ hp, No. 231541, £45; Bamford Chaff Cutter working order, £35; Bamlett horse-drawn mower, with Barnard engine, £60; J.A.P. 5 hp engine, £15. Ian Skuse, Tel. Yatton 834943.

Onan flat twin generators, three off, £80 ono, Clive Sealey, 145 Westfield Grove, Yeovil, Somerset. Tel. Yeovil 75001.

Ruston Hornsby PB 3 hp on trolley; Bamford EG4, 4 hp; Lister DK $1\frac{1}{2}$ hp: Lister Diesel Auto-start 3KW 220 volt, complete with control panel, fuel tank, and new battery, all open to offers, the latter item around £250. Ray Earle, 12 Roverside, Hanham, Bristol. Tel. 673016.

WANTED

Flywheel for a Bradford, $1\frac{1}{4}$ " shaft dia. 16" o/dia., $1\frac{3}{4}$ " face. Kerwyn Harris, as above.

Flat belt pulley for Lister D type, set of 4 cast iron wheels 7"-9" dia. Chris Arnold, Bradford on Avon 6565.

4.

110 Volt dynamo, and switch gear, will exchange any of the items advertised above for this lighting unit. Ian Skuse Yatton 834943.

Open crank engine required, as SMALL as possible. Chris Gulliford, Sunnyholm, Middle Rd., Cossington, Bridgwater, Som.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cotswold Oil Engine Clubs' 7th Annual 'Bring & Buy Auction' is on Saturday, 12th November at Farmor's School, Fairford, Glos from 12 noon. Details from Mrs.B.Cross, 'Pettersville' 2 Chelworth Road, Cricklade, Wilts. Tel Swindon 751538.

Abbey Hill Steam Rally 1984. Details for engine entries from Terry Heath, 'Ter-shi' Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset. Please include a SAE. The date:- Easter weekend 1984.

CLUB EVENTS

November 28th The Munt Magic Lantern and Cinematographic Show. Nostalgia in celluloid, vintage lantern slides and cine films from Brian Munt's own collection. See life a hundred or so years ago in the pioneering days of film making. Fun for all the family but we MUST request NO SMOKING please

November 13th Crofton Engine coach trip, full details in last month's Newsletter. WHAT, you have forgotten to book...quickly now, ring Diana on Temple Cloud 52939.

December 3rd Dinner and Dance, Masonic Hall, Frome, Som. AGAIN ring Diana before all the tickets have been sold. This will be a very popular event as always, but this year we have managed to secure for your amusement, the 'Farmer John' Country Yokel Disco and country entertainment. Only £5.50 per head, payable in advance to Diana, with SAE please.

THE DINNER AND DANCE WILL BE THE ONLY CLUB EVENT DURING DECEMBER

January 30th The Trowbridge Camera Club entertains with a slide show of their shots of Traction Engine Rallies, Fairground Organs, and items of related interest.

February 27th Annual General Meeting; if you would like to be on the Committee and help run your Club there is still plenty of time to think it over before the AGM. Have you any points to raise? Would you perhaps, like to take over this Newsletter? We would like to know and the AGM is the time to make your wishes known.

March 26th 'The Narrow Gauge Railways of North Wales' a slide show by Michael Cannon.

CO-OPTION

Following Gerald Atherton's departure from the WSEC Committee, we are pleased to announce his replacement by co-option under clause 6(e) of the constitution. This was a unanimous decision of all Committee members present at the last meeting. Therefore we are happy to welcome Brian Verrall to the WSEC Committee. Brian has been a very regular attendee at monthly meetings and indeed, all Club events, since joining the Club and also has encouraged a few others to join. He recently expressed a wish to be on the Committee, given the opportunity; we always welcome an 'injection' of new blood....!

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE?.....OR IS IT?

While reading a rally programme issued by a much respected preservation club somewhere south of the Tamer, my wife pointed out a most interesting exhibit amongst the Fergusons, Fordsuns and Allsi Chalmers.....

"Item 63...Fordsun Major E27N, made in 1984(..!), purchased three years ago..."
Who said we are behind the times down in the West Country?

STOP PRESS

FOR SALE: Ex. Rhoose Airport Austinlite Alternator set, 230 volt, Petter aircooled engine; also brush alternator set with similar Petter engine, 230 volts; Ruston Hornsby 1½ PT; Ruston PB 4½; Offers to Alan Barns, Tel. 0222-842785 (Cardiff).

WANTED: Cast Iron Seats by collector. Tel. Alan Barns as above.