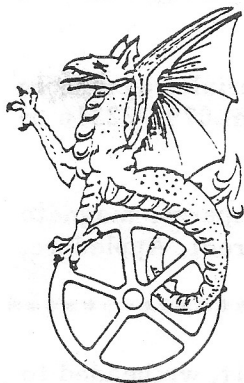


# WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1987

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Now we are well into autumn and the rally season is over, here is a reminder of the long summer evenings and midsummer days.

### BATH FESTIVAL OF STEAM -27/28 June

Now in its third year, Bath Festival of Steam is establishing itself as the major steam and vintage rally in our area. It has certainly got a lot going for it - local council backing and facilities, a fine, if rather open site and, this year, a 36 page programme featuring over 400 exhibits. A good ring programme and field events also feature strongly.

With all these plus points, it has to be worth supporting and I hope will continue as a major event. It needs to be this in order to gain the one thing it seems to fall short on, namely 'atmosphere'. Whether it is the open-ness of the site (yet we tend to complain when we are all packed too tightly in), the general lay-out (engine owners tend to find themselves in the extremities of many rally fields -sometimes understandably so!), or just the fact that, as yet it has not achieved the cohesion of an established event. I thought that the stationery engine tended towards being too tightly packed in, especially as there were large open spaces across which people had to make an effort to come and reach us. In this respect, various groups of exhibits did seem to be too widely dispersed.

There were about 100 stationary engines on the field and it was good to see several larger engines being rallied. The big Petter S type perhaps attracted the most attention when it was being started on 'kangaroo' petrol.

Among the nicer touches to the show, I thought Gordon Cleall pushing his wife around in the original Monk's Bath Chair, both of them dressed in period costume, was quite charming. On the other hand, one had to feel for Brian Munt, sited immediately opposite one of the commentator's loudspeakers.

One surprising thing was the large number of vintage cars (93) which turned out. The Military were also there in style, all dressed for the part as well. The uniform must have its attractions since my younger sister fell for a young man with a superbly restored willeys....! (There's a joke there is you give it a little thought!).

It was also good to see several collections of 'things'; lawnmowers, oil cans, (never seen so many and not one bought from my stall....!), dairy items, and even piano accordians. I find 'thematic collections' very interesting and few rallies are strong in this area. Yesterday's Farming always set a good standard for collections and I think it's time we saw more 'collection tents' catering for collectors in the same way they do for crafts and models. There is a lot of scope here for a wide variety of interesting displays if more collectors could be persuaded to exhibit by being offered better facilities.

It was good to see the Wessex Stationary Engine Club playing a part in the event this year - and credited in the programme too - through the good offices of Michael and Jane Cannon and I hope that our Club will continue to be involved in the organisation of this event in the future.

Tom Randall

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### THIS'N THAT

Patrick Knight, whose name will be familiar to you all as being responsible for numerous excellent photographs and other contributions to the Stationary Engine wishes to thank the WSEC and Roy & Ivor Cox for the kindness and hospitality received during his recent holiday with his friends, Philip Tracey and family, in the North Somerset area.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery following a recent spell in hospital to Jean Wookey. Get well soon Jean.

Overheard at Hewish Rally - 'Herbie's been rallying for over ten years now and still hasn't got his own trailer....' Perhaps he's hoping to win one in a raffle!

Winter restorers seeking seals, jointings, gaskets in felt, rubber or any sort of material may like to contact Specialised Seal Services, Unit 7, Great Western One, Bristol St., Swindon. Tel.0793-22316 or 511410 for prompt, friendly advice and service.

For Villiers magneto spares and repairs. Lucas SR magneto spares, Wico series A spares, magneto couplings, spark plugs, and all HT sundries try Mike Green, The Boat Yard, Myrtle Street, Appledore, Bideford, Devon. Tel. 02372-75986. Send SAE for a catalogue.

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#### THE AUGUST CLUB MEETING - 'Member's Night'

After giving myself yet another hernia getting the Club Epidiascope out of the loft, we headed to the Old Down Inn for Member's Night where we asked Club Members to contribute to the evening's entertainment by bringing along slides, photos, etc. for everyone's enjoyment. I looked around the room and saw a very good turn-out. 'Good' I thought, 'tonight we will have a load of slides to show'. Unfortunately, as in previous years, no such luck. Only Brian Verrall, Bob Hallam and myself bothered to bring anything. Brian didn't want his photographs turned into toast under the epidiascope so it was down to Bob and myself to show our slides.

I first started rallying in 1979 and one slide showed young Andrew Harris, then about 2 years old. Another slides had everyone in fits; I asked if the person in the picture could be identified. No one guessed - it was Don Rogers without his beard, he looked about 20 years younger.

After the slides came the break and Herbie's raffle. Bob's slides came next and a close at 9.40p.m. due to LACK OF MATERIAL. Please members, dig out some slides or photos or something next year; don't leave it all to the usual few to provide you with entertainment. That is the best way to kill a Club stone dead.

Brian Munt

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#### FULL QUART CRANK-UP - 27th Sept., Hewish, near Weston-Super-Mare

The fun seemed to start the night before as the Crank-Up 'Crankies' invaded the pub. The smiles seemed to go on all Sunday as the sun shone down and the money just poured into the CLIC fund. Once again it was an all-round effort by everyone on this, the 7th annual gathering.

This year instead of just one steam-roller we were lucky to have three - although we nearly ended up with just two as one started to sink into the tarmac. Stuart Ashman warmed up the show with his juggling act using fire clubs which drew a large crowd, great entertainment! His juggling rabbit, Tosser, was also very popular. We must raise our hats once again to the Pike children with their bric-a-brac stall. Poor Linda has been climbing into bed over boxes of stuff for weeks! Simon, Trudy and Jason raised £96.29.

There are so many people to thank who contributed in so many ways - so putting it in a nutshell 'You are a super bunch'. The sum raised at the Crank-Up was £668.77 plus £195 that was collected in the CLIC Treasure Chest at rallies. The grand total was £863.77 which is almost one hundred pounds up on last year. With 58 prizes donated, it made the best draw ever.

Thanks again to everyone.

Ray, Carol, Ev, and Ivor Cox.

Always fine weather for the Full-Quart Crank Up; this year was no exception. What a good selection of engines as always! Where else can you see an Eagle, a Wata-Mota, two Bulldogs, a Domestic, Ruston Hornsby HR, Victoria (and a 3 hp at that!), two Blackstones, Melco-Brownall, Ingeco, Barker, Bamford L.T., a variety of Associateds - to say nothing of that extremely rare beast, and Aermotor pumping engine, in such a small gathering? Pete Holloway held the spectators enthralled with his models running on compressed air, the compressor ewing driven by a tatty (sorry Pete, but you know it was) Lister D, shamefacedly sited two down on the row! My entry, the Hewlett and Blondeau 'Omnia' 3½ hp set out to prove that it was not the 'everything' that its name suggests; I finally got it to run properly at 4.30 p.m. while the raffle prizes were being awarded! Dr. Blackstone Thorne correctly diagnosed a loose throttle butterfly - thanks Ed.

Nice to see Lynne Castell again with her drawings, Tony Andrews with his swingboats, and our own National Juggler, Stuart Ashman, with Jan, Tosser and the family. The express trains roared by on one side, the main road traffic roared past on the other and visitors kept pouring in all day as can be seen by the superb total raised for CLIC. Well done Messrs.Cox & co.; we'll be there next year.

Ern Brassplate

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING.....

.....and what better present could you want than a subscription of 'Stationary Engine'?, full of interesting, readable articles, adverts, sale reports, etc. Be a properly informed engineman, become an enthusiast. This, the cheapest monthly specialist mag. on the market, is still only £11 for 12 issues. Let mother-in-law buy you something really useful this year, something which is a collector's item from the minute it falls through your letterbox. Send to Subscription Dept., 'Stationary engine', PPG Publishing Ltd., Kelsey House, 77 High Street, Beckenham, Kent.

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## THE GREAT DORSET STEAM FAIR - 1987

Torrential rain as we left home on the Saturday to commence our journey for a day visit, somewhat dampened our spirits at the start of this annual pilgrimage. However, as we entered Dorset the weather brightened and stayed fine all day. We were followed into the car park by Ian and Jo-Ann Cradock, Sylvia and Ivor Yeo, and Barrie and Sue Thomas - while not far away were the Butler Family with Tony Jones.

A good rummage around the auto-jumble stalls was followed by a look at the interesting and varied selection of commercial vehicles on display.

The first stationary engine I encountered was the gigantic Herford from Holland whose flywheel weighed over five tons alone. The engine necessitated the use of a hired mobile crane to unload and reload on its transporter; imagine what that must have cost, to say nothing of the cost of getting it over here. The entire afternoon was spent looking around the stationary engine arena, meeting old friends and making new ones. I think I spent an hour with Dutchman Cor de Bie and his family, over here on their first visit to the U.K. What a character! Suddenly it seemed everybody was covering over their exhibits - it was 6 o/c and where had the day gone?

This was a fine selection of stationary engines, a multitude of types and models, well chosen for their interest to the viewing public and certainly the best display there has ever been at this rally. A far cry indeed from 10 years ago when there were too many engines, taking up too much space, and too many gaps due to people entering, leaving their engines at home and just using their passes to gain admission.

Another quick look around, then we joined the gathering crowds around the line-up of Showmans and Ploughing engines. While keeping warm under the front of 'Renown' we met the Wessex (Frome) Branch, the Lambert, Appleby and Puttick brigade, during which a passing Cornish voice pronounced that the Show was 'Right on Boy'. That was Barrie Thomas putting the Celtic 'seal of approval' on Mike Oliver's 1987 effort. High praise indeed, and deservedly so - the best Stourpaine ever.

We left for home at around 10 p.m. very tired; those fish and chips in Gillingham tasted like a banquet....'

Emerson Brantingham

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## YESTERDAY'S FARMING - Sept.12/13

I always look forward to this event, a good day out with a relaxed atmosphere. However, it is difficult not to make comparisons; last year's event was unbeatable, this year's somehow did not quite match up to it. The weather was fine, on the Sunday at least, the car parking superb, the access good, the tractors were numerous and varied selection with an interesting commentary. I enjoyed the village fair, the trade stands - and met someone I hadn't seen since I left school, in the craft tent. I lost my wife within minutes of entering the field, we met briefly - again in the craft tent!

While chatting with Geoff Bryant and Cyril Meecham over a very welcome cup of tea, a helicopter circles the rallyfield and landed. Out stepped a nonchalant rally entrant, millionaire Roger Bastable.

During my peregrinations, I met for the first time, the Editor of the West Dorset Club's Newsletter, Andrew Miller. It appears he too gets starved of material; my own problem is not just confined to OUR Club it seems. Nice to meet you anyway Andy, I am enjoying your present series of articles in 'Stationary engine'.

It was the engine section that let this show down. There were simply too many engines spread out too far around the field; the general public wandered down the row for a third of the way and then headed off towards the stalls. Such a pity as somewhere there were about 40 nice engines including the aforementioned Bryant & Meecham collection, the Thorne, Squire & Co., the Harris Bedford-Blackstone, the 33hp Blackstone mounted on a lorry chassis, a well restored Stover/Pilter, a Lister L or J with industrial flywheels - and a Victoria, of course. It was noticeable too, that many exhibits were not displaying any information of a descriptive nature, another retrogressive step compared to previous years.

One display which really caught my attention, not because I know one iota about them - far from it - was the collection of piano accordians. They were well set out and exhibited. (Enginemen take note..). Please can we see them again next year Brian?

Eventually I rediscovered my wife - in the craft tent - which by then was getting a bit hot and stuffy, found the car and headed home.

Eric Brain



## FOR SALE

**1961 MG Midget**, red, wire-wheels, good hood, 12 months MOT, classic collector's sports car. £600 ono. Tel. Frome 61369

**Corn Mill**, light weight, believed made in 1903 by Smith & Grace. £35. Cecil Giblett, 35 Goss Drive, Street, Somerset. Tel 45790.

**1979 Chrysler Avenger GL 1600**. New MOT, towbar fitted ready for a rally trailer. £550. Tony Elley, 6 Entry Rise, Coombe Down, Bath, Som. Tel.833106.

**Base plate for Lister D-Type water pumping set**. £20. Roy Cox. Tel. Weston-Super-Mare 419826.

## WANTED

**Separate water tank & Handbook for 1947 Wolseley WD11**. D. Hall, Tel. Westbury (0373) 826129.

**Bamford water pump** with Bamford name case into it for 2½ hp Bamford engine to drive. Dave Clack, Trowbridge (0225) 61987.

**BSA 120cc**, side valve engine made late '50's for my rotovator. Must be in good running order. Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr.Bristol.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cotswold Oil engine Preservation Society hold their annual auction on Saturday, November 14th. Gates open 8 a.m. Sale starts at 12 noon promptly. Details and booking in forms from Mrs. B. Cross, 2 Chelworth Road, Cricklade, Wilts. Tel. Swindon 751538 (evenings only).

## CLUB EVENTS

31 Oct.      Hallowee'n Social Evening at the Chilcompton Village Hall.      There is a cold buffet on offer, Keg Bitter, Canned beer, wine and soft drinks. Entertainment is by Sally Pople. Tickets are £3 in advance please from Jackie Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Som.; cheques made payable to Wessex Stationary Engine Club.

30 Nov.      Ten years with Wessex, a photographic peep back in time over our first ten years, Has anyone got any slides of people, rallies and engines from back in the early days of our Club's history. Do you know anyone connected with the Club in its early days? Bring them along as well. By the way, please try and help; don't let apathy ruin this evening as it seems to have the August one (see page 2).

6 Dec.      Anti-Freeze Crank Up at the Old Down Inn - this is a Sunday lunch-time event, wear your winter woolies and bring along an engine to keep warm by. Starts around noon, goes on most of the afternoon. If it rains or snows, at least the comforts of the bar will be on hand. If we get enough engines turn up, it may get reported in the local paper.....hint,hint.

25 Jan.      Yet to be arranged  
1988

29 Feb.      Annual General Meeting  
1988

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## NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter goes to print around the 12th of each month so I have to have any material at the least by the 8th. Please send anything for inclusion as soon after the monthly meeting as possible to meet this deadline - our members who cannot get to the meetings regularly, do not want to read stale news. From now on with no rallies taking place I shall find it difficult to fill a monthly full Newsletter. The 'twelve apostles' of the committee take turns to write-up the monthly meetings; one or two of them also report on the special events - what about YOU writing something to fill a half-page or so during the rally 'closed season'???

Send it to Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol. BS18 4PE...as soon as possible, PLEASE.....!