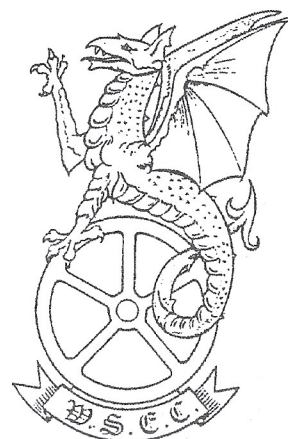


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

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## **NEWSLETTER**



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

When you read the article in this Newsletter from Colin Curtis thanking the members who came to his rescue when he was in dire straits it is typical of the friendly and helpful nature of people in the stationary engine movement, and the Wessex Club in particular. This friendly attitude does not prevail in all organisations, in car clubs a certain snobbishness exists, depending on what car you possess. The W.S.E.C. has for sometime been in a position of growth, where quite a few clubs are in decline. Some years ago a stationary engine enthusiast and his wife visited two clubs in this area with the intention of joining, at each of these clubs no one spoke to them or greeted them from the time they entered to until they left at the end of the meeting. Their third attempt to join a club was a visit to the W.S.E.C at The Old Down. They were spoken to, made welcome and they joined our Club that night. They have both been stalwart members ever since. So I really hope the wonderful assistance given to Colin will continue whenever any Wessex member needs help.

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

As Chairman of our Club I would personally on behalf of all members like to thank Gerald and Hazel Atherton for rescuing one of our younger members Colin Curtis when he had a disastrous experience with his trailer and engine when returning from the Full-Quart Crank-Up. Gerald and Hazel thank you both, you are truly 'good Samaritans'. Myself and Colin decided to visit the 'Sortout' run by Jim Wilkie at Newbury, although I object to paying £3 to attend an Autojumble I really wanted to go to hand our 'flyers' to publicise our own engine Jumble the following week. We visited all the stalls giving each stallholder one of our 'flyers', after these were given out I still had a large number of them over, so I set myself up in the entrance to the car park and proceeded to give one to everyone going through the gate, I only had a few left when I was accosted by Jim Wilkie, he accused me of using his event to publicise ours, and told me I needed his permission to hand them out. After a rather long argument I called him things I cannot repeat here and needless to say I shall not be returning to Newbury. I can only conclude by saying Jim Wilkie does nothing for the preservation movement unless it is for his own personal financial gain.

BJB.

### \*\*\*\*\* BIRTHDAY GREETING TO W.S.E.C. MEMBERS \*\*\*\*\*

Birthday greetings to member **BENNY DOEL** of Mere, Warminster. Benny recently celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday; he is a longstanding Wessex Member and regularly exhibits his Lister at events in the West Country. A very Happy Birthday Benny, and may there be many many more.

The Club would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Member **DENNIS HODGES** of Coleford, Nr Frome who celebrated his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup> October. Dennis is another member who has been in the W.S.E.C almost since it started. Many Happy returns of the day Dennis.

Many Happy returns of the day to **ROGER PIKE** of Chilcompton, Roger will be celebrating the **BIG 'FIVE O' (50)** on the 18<sup>th</sup> November (his Son Simon also has his 27<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the same day). This must be quite expensive for Linda. Roger is another long standing member who served for quite a few years on the Committee. Once again a very Happy Birthday to all of you – from all the rest of us.



**\*\*\*\*\* SOCIAL EVENING AT CHEDDAR FOOTBALL CLUB**  
**- SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER \*\*\*\*\***

This is always a very popular event in our calendar and this year was no exception, about 55 members and friends attended. Robin and Jackie captained the skittle teams, I think Robin was rather crafty picking his team as they won handsomely. The highest Ladies ended up as a tie between Linda Pike and Phyllis Phillips with Phyllis emerging the winner after a play-off. The highest Gents was also a tie between Herb Gane and myself, after a play-off sadly Herb lost and I had the bottle of wine. William Rogers done a grand job of 'sticking up' for which he was well rewarded when I passes a cup around for a collection for him (when I saw what was in the cup I think I will do the sticking up next year). After the skittles we all tucked into the supper, it was either faggots, chips and peas or a ploughman's, I opted for the faggots which I really enjoyed, washed down with plenty of Bass (Colin was driving). After the supper we had our usual raffle, Linda Pike had done a splendid job selling the tickets which realised around ninety pounds. Thank you Linda, with nearly 40 prizes on offer the raffle table was bending under the strain. The prizes were soon distributed to all corners of the room. I managed to win a box of roses for Henry (they won't last very long). All in all a very pleasant evening with a chance to have a natter to friends without the hassle of looking after an engine. We shall be back again next year (P.S. pick me again Robin I prefer to be on the winning side).

BJB.

**\*\*\*\*\* DISASTER AFTER FULL QUART \*\*\*\*\***

After such a nice rally, despite the weather, disaster struck on my journey home. On pulling out of a junction onto a busy main road the trailer I was towing over-turned crashing my Lister onto the road. After some kind motorist stopped and helped me clear the road. Fellow Club Members Gerald and Hazel came to my rescue. As luck would have it they lived 300 yards up the road from where the accident happened. They unloaded their engine and dashed back to recover mine. Once the Lister was safely inside Gerald's trailer we took it back to his, whilst poor Hazel pushed the damaged trailer up the pavement. She got some rather strange looks from passing motorists. Gerald & Hazel I can't thank you enough! After drying off and a lovely hot cup of tea, Gerald and I dismantled my trailer and loaded it into his, along with my Lister. Gerald and Hazel then kindly towed it back to my house. Once all the bits were unloaded, it was inside again for tea and biscuits, before Gerald and Hazel set off for home. Well that's now 2 winter projects I have: to fix the trailer and the Lister. Fortunately there was not too much damage, things could have been a lot worse. Finally it just goes to show what great people belong to our Club, as one engine enthusiast comes to another aid. Once again thanks a million Gerald & Hazel!!!

C.J.CURTIS

**\*\*\*\*\* GET WELL SOON \*\*\*\*\***

The Club would like to wish a speedy recovery to Linda Pike, Linda has recently been in Hospital for surgery to her leg, she is now out and about but limping rather badly. I heard through the grapevine she intends 'playing on this' for a while to keep Roger on the go. Linda we all hope you soon make a full recovery.

**\*\*\*\*\* EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY \*\*\*\*\***

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.** TOYTRAC 2000. The Farm Toy and Model Show. At Farmer Giles, Farmstead, Teffont, Salisbury, Wiltshire. 10am to 5pm. For further details ring 0126 436 1307.

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.** SOUTH SOMERSET' AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION CLUB'S SORTOUT at Yeovil Cattle Market - 9am onwards. Pitches from £5, buyers £1. For more information ring 01935 824543 or 822845.

**MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.** CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN. A Somerset and Avon Police Dog handler gives a talk on his work in the Force. Usual Raffle.

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER.** ANTI-FREEZE CRANK-UP at Nunney Catch Transport Café. All members welcome. The Café will be open for cooked breakfasts and lunches. Let's make an effort to bring out some of the rarer and larger engines. We shall be having the usual raffle; donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. This is also a bring and buy so if you have anything to sell bring it along and display it in front of your engine.



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

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd would like to welcome the following new members: - Mr & Mrs D Hallet from Watcombe, Torquay. Mr G T Brice and Junior members Greg Brice and Sam Roberts.

*We hope your membership of this Club will be a long and happy one.*

\*\*\*\*\* FUN & GAMES AT THE OLD DOWN INN \*\*\*\*\*

Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> the room at The Old Down Inn was turned into a play room for forty or so members that turned up to be taken back in time by John Girvan from Devizes with a talk and demonstration of toys and street games of the past. John is a blacksmith by trade (not a shoeing smith) but a worker of iron, and is also a historian reaching many aspects of local history. He has appeared on TV and local radio (being very well known for his collection and talks on the history of the bra). One of John's other past times is his Ghost walks around Devizes, this is a conducted tour of the haunted and spooky parts of Devizes and the old castle, many a hanging took place at the castle. It might be fun to give this tour a try as one of our club nights if you are not afraid of ghoolies, ghosties and long legged beasties. John produced his toy box from which many old and fascinating toys were pulled, first to come out was the old game of whip and top – a spinning top controlled by a whip, this required some skill but once mastered was great fun. Another very simple toy was the Tip Jack or Tip Cat, this was a small piece of wood pointed at both ends, this was placed on a flat stone or pavement and the pointed end hit with a stick this would cause the tip Jack to fly into the air then it was again struck with the stick making it shoot through the air, I bet many windows got broken with this toy. Out from John's box came old favourites like the yo-yo, cup and ball, monkey on a stick, the climbing man and many others. Now most of us have played five stones when we were children but how many of you new that this game started with the five stones being made from the bones found in the rear trotters of a pig. Other games that I am sure we all knew included the whizzer wheel, this was made from a circle of wood with two small holes drilled through it and then threaded onto a string forming an endless loop this was then swung round so that the string twisted then pulling on the ends of the loop the wheel would spin backwards and forwards. I made them from large buttons taken from mother's tin when I was a child. Simple fun and not a battery in sight. Frogs, now I wonder how many of you can remember having a little tin clicking frog, I know I had one in my Christmas stocking, a small tin frog with a piece of spring steel fixed inside and when this was pressed it made a clicking sound, this toy was issued to Soldiers in the Second World War to use as a signalling device. Other toys came into light from the box; a pair of Ox rib bones bleached in the sun made clackers a musical instrument similar to playing the spoons. Out from the box also came a toy that I made when I was a lad and no doubt many of you will have made cotton reel tanks with a rubber band, a small piece of candle and two small sticks or one small stick and four tin tacks and a match stick, I know I had many hours of fun making and playing with them, for the girls a cotton reel and four small nails made a bobbin for French knitting. One more toy that was very simple was a very small tin with a slot cut along it and when this was swung around on a string it could make sounds like birds singing. I wonder if the children of today would get the same enjoyment out of such simple toys as we did, no computer games or TV, but then I know I had great fun playing with some of the toys that John had in his toy box as I had some of the same in my own. The evening came to a close with John telling us of his many other interests I wonder how he finds time for all the things he does.

E.J.GAY

\*\*\*\*\* LEADED FUELS AND PISTON CORROSION \*\*\*\*\*

Corrosion of a piston on its rubbing surface is the result of acid attack, usually associated with the use of highly leaded fuels. Such fuels contain ethyl dibromide and ethyl dichloride, a small small portion of which finds its way into the lubricating oil, and gives a distinctive light brown appearance. These salts alone are harmless, but if water is present they form hydrobromic and hydrochloric acid, which attack aluminium and its alloys, particularly the high copper alloys. Thus when operating on high lead fuels moisture must not be allowed to build up in the crankcase. This is what happens with leaded fuels so what corrosion takes place when we use unleaded: - perhaps not a lot as our old engines were around long before lead was added to petrol, maybe someone can tell is the corrosive chemicals in unleaded fuel.

E.J.GAY



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

**FOR SALE.** 1911 LISTER J. 2.5hp, 450rpm on original skid base, complete with cooling tank. Open to sensible offers for a rare engine. 1926 LISTER 'L' on skids, 5hp £200. 1930 PETTER 'M', tank-cooled, 3hp £300. 1950 LISTER DK, petrol, paraffin 1.5hp on trolley £120. BENTALL CHAFFCUTTER, restored, circa 1928-30 for details ring Alan on 01380 830344 Westbury, Wilts area.

**FOR SALE.** LISTER 'D' 1958. A1 condition on oak turntable 3 wheel trolley £120. PETTER A1 good running order on skids £35. For further details ring Percy on 01373 812461.

\*\*\*\*\* WANTED WANTED WANTED \*\*\*\*\*

**WANTED** – Any old photographs of past members who have gone rallying in the sky. Don Rogers would like to make a memorial board to display at Rallies as a fitting tribute to past members who are no longer with us. Don would appreciate the loan of suitable photographs and can be contacted on 01761 452432.

\*\*\*\*\* FUEL WASH \*\*\*\*\*

Lubrication of piston rings is by a very thin film of oil, easily damaged or removed entirely by unfavourable conditions. Incompletely vaporised fuel can wash away this thin film of oil cause rapid wear of rings, ring grooves and bores, so much so that engines operated under very bad conditions can have their rings worn out completely in a very short space of time. Fuel wash can be caused by:- Incorrectly adjusting the fuel settings, excessive use of choke (if fitted), very low engine operating temperatures, Clogging up air cleaners. An examination of the lubricating oil will usually reveal the presence of fuel easily detected by the smell.

E.J.GAY

\*\*\*\*\* JUNIOR MEMBERS \*\*\*\*\*

If any Junior Member would like the loan of an engine for the entire season next year please contact me. The engines I have in mind are in Class one condition and ready to rally. All you have to do is take them to rallies and clean them.

BJB.

\*\*\*\*\* ENGINE PAINTING \*\*\*\*\*

Over the many years that I have been restoring bits of rusty metal I have always used Tekaloid Synthetic Enamel to give my engines a good finish. An old friend of mine who was a coach painter recommended this paint to me. He also gave me many tips on how to get a first class finish. I have recommended this paint to many of my friends in the Club, this product used to be available through most good paint suppliers. I have just had a hell of a job getting hold of this paint and after making many phone calls including ringing I.C.I the makers of this paint, even they could not tell me the name of a supplier, but a lot of detective work and yes a lot of phone calls I tracked down Tekaloid Synthetic Enamel, this is now only available from Breakwell Paints, 1 Harden Road, Leamore, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 1EL. Phone No. 01922 400444 I don't know how many Club members use this product but if you have been trying to find it this is the place to go.

E.J.GAY.

\*\*\*\*\* THE HELPLINE \*\*\*\*\*

After publishing our Helpline for member's problems I have already had four requests for information, two for mechanical and two for paintwork, it just shows that the Helpline is working and the need is there. If you have any skills that you think could benefit other members please let me add your name to the list.

BJB.

\*\*\*\*\* CANCELLATION OF EVENT \*\*\*\*\*

Unfortunately this year there will be no Mince Pie Crank-Up at Evercreech on the 27<sup>th</sup> December. The reason – One of my Daughters is getting married on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Most inconsiderate of her but that's daughters for you!

BJB.