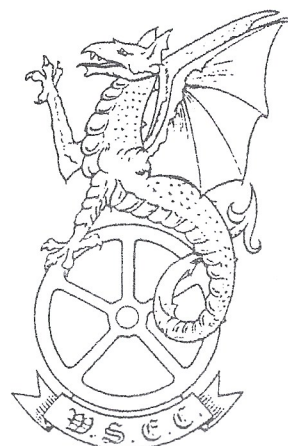


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

OCTOBER 2001

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

## **NEWSLETTER**



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

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

I have had a few complaints over the last couple of years, including a letter recently from members who say that when offering their services to help set up the rally on the Friday, their services are not required. This is due to the fact that since moving to Cheddar we have a 'workforce' of members who live near to the site, instead of leaving everything until the Friday as we did in the past, we now start setting up on the Monday evening, by Wednesday we are all ready to cope with any early entries that arrive. So by all means still offer your services, we can probably find you something to do, as many hands make light work.

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

For our September meeting at The Old Down we were entertained by local historian Dennis Chedgely, who gave a superb talk on Radstock Museum. This really was a very good presentation. The result of this talk was that the Wessex Club has volunteered to put on a display of engines outside the museum at a date to be arranged, watch the Newsletter for details. High praise indeed must be given to Ian and Carol Skuse and their team of helpers who organised and put on the brilliant crank-up at The Ship and Castle, Congresbury. Setting up an event for the first time at a new location is usually fraught with problems, but Ian and his crew put on a first class show. I only hope this is definitely going to be an annual event. Put my name down for next year Ian. Another popular event, which was well supported and was enjoyed by all who attended, was the social evening at Cheddar Football Club. This year the food was good, with larger faggots, and a very good ploughman's. The usual very large raffle raised £105 for Club funds, thanks to Linda Pike and Diane Davis for selling the tickets. As I write this report our Autumn 'Sortout' is only 4 days away. A report will be in next month's Newsletter.  
BJB.

### **\*\*\*\*\* VINTAGE TRANSPORT DAY - NUNNEY CATCH - SUN 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPT \*\*\*\*\***

Many Wessex member who attended and exhibited at the George Inn, Longbridge Deverill on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> July will recall what a superb evening it was, well an almost similar event took place at Jackie & Gordons Café on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Although not quite as big as Longbridge Deverill, for its first event a large number of exhibitors turned out. Lots of trucks in all shapes and sizes, artics, flatbeds, some with trailers, tippers and tractor units all filled up the car park. A nice selection of motorbikes were displayed on the old road in front of the café and several vintage cars and vans all helped to fill up the car park. There was just one stationary engine which Bill and I took, tell a lie there was two for a while as new club member Mr B Mead brought along his Lister 'D' type that would not run and we all had a look at it and found its spark was being delivered at the wrong time, this was soon rectified, and it ran very well and was then returned to its home in Batcombe where its hoped to be put to use driving a vintage apple crusher. I'm not quite sure who organised this event, probably Gordon with some help from his friends. It was a nice day out and I hope it happens again next year.

ROBIN

### **\*\*\*\*\* BIRTHDAY GREETINGS \*\*\*\*\***

We wish Jackie Callow of Nunney Catch Transport Café a very happy birthday indeed. Jackie celebrated her birthday recently, and as I never divulge a lady's age, I can only tell you in 50 years time Jackie can expect a telegram from the Queen.



\*\*\*\*\* 'SERENE SEPTEMBER' AT MIDSOMER NORTON SOUTH STATION –  
SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER \*\*\*\*\*

I think this must be one of the most unusual locations for a crank-up. It was quite a sight to see engines spread out along the 'up' platform! This event was organised by the Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust (SDRHT), who were founded in 1995 with the aim of restoring the station to its original 1950 condition and run a short section of track. The station was opened in 1874, as a part of a 26-mile extension from Evercreech to Bath. It contained two platforms, a goods shed, cattle dock, lamp room and station building. A little way up the platform was the signal box and greenhouse. The station was popular with holidaymakers travelling to Weymouth and Bournemouth in the '1920-1940's. After a long decline, the station closed on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1966. The track was lifted in spring 1969 and the bridge a year later. The station was abandoned until it was resold to Wansdyke District Council in 1995, when the SDRHT was formed. The Trust's aims are to turn back the clock to the early 1950's and re-erect or restore all the original buildings, along with 1000 feet of double track. A woodland area is to be created at the north of the site. The event is to commemorate 35 years since the station was shut, and was attended by a variety of vehicles and exhibits. There were 10 engines, a bouncy castle, Trust stall and beer tent. In the station itself were stalls selling railway books and videos. Also attending were Mendip Motor Club, with a Vanden Plas Princess R, Austin 19, Triumph Stag MKII, Ford Cortina GL and a Vauxhall Victor 2300SL. At the front of the station were Ford Bros. 1902 Avelings and Porter steam roadroller 'Trundle' and Mr Goole from Trowbridges' 1934 Sentinel S4 steam lorry. This was the first ever shaft-drive lorry and was originally owned by Cowlaire Cooperative Society, Glasgow, where it worked until 1950 as coal delivery lorry. It then worked from 1950-1956 as a tar sprayer in County Durham. It was bought in 19676 from Ferndown by Mr Goole, and restored by him over the next 5 years. An interesting story, and one which should horrify all engineers out there, is that of a Lister Junior 3hp, owned by Gerry Brice. This engine was bought from a vicar at Huish Champflower in 1951 for 12/6d. The engine was seized, so the piston was removed with all the piston rings broken, decoked and replaced in the engine, still with broken piston rings! The engine was then used from 1951-1989 to drive a saw bench, and reportedly never missed a beat. The engine was started on petrol then ran on whatever was available, be it TVO, paraffin or domestic heating oil. Then engine was then restored, and piston rings changed, in 1999 by Graham Dawes. Today it was shown driving an Argosy water pump. This is a very good crank-up and raises funds for the important work of the SDRHT.

JONATHAN HOCKEDY  
JUNIOR REPORTER.

\*\*\*\*\* SHIP INN CRANK-UP, CONGRESBURY – SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER \*\*\*\*\*

The last Sunday in September has historically been the Full-Quart Crank-Up and as we all know Roy and Ivor Cox decided to retire after 20 years of organising this event, this in itself would have meant a void in our rallying year except that our ex club chairman Ian Skuse came to the rescue, and after negotiations with the Ship Inn Landlord Ian arranged this new event. My arrival at 9.30am complete with Jackie, Marg and Bill and our 8hp Ruston was met by parking supremo Don Rogers, who soon had us located into what was an almost full to the brim large car park. Just off the top of my head, there must have been 40-50 engines and vintage cars, motorcycles, tractors, commercials, stalls, a small organ and Professor Munt's 'Punch and Judy' Show that attracted more 'big' kids than little ones. Parked on one side of me was John Delay with a very original little American Stickney engine which ran like clockwork and on my other side was John Thorne with his immaculate Blackstone which unfortunately broke an inlet valve spring, but the problem was soon resolved with an over long new spring that was trimmed to length by a very sharp pair of Philip Thorton-Evison pliers and after some heat from his blowlamp John's engine was running again. Dianne and John Emery brought along there Amanco and a lovely collection of old spark plugs neatly displayed in a glass-fronted case. John Brooks had his usual spares department on view and Phil Marshall's Ruston and Hornsby IP was a real eye catcher. Bill Coombes had his Wessex Cup winning Ingeco running well and Brian Read brought along his 6hp Crossley, we don't see this engine out very often as Brian usually takes out his 7hp Victoria. A nice selection of motorcycles included Steve Hibbs with his Vincent 500, one Douglas, and A.L.E. Vellolette courtesy of Dot and Derek Watts. Brian and Mary Verralls matchless and Derek Maybes B.S.A. At midday we had our lunch in the Hungry Horse restaurant and what a meal it was, excellent food at reasonable prices, the only problem afterwards is all you want to do is sleep, Bill managed this with no problem, Jackie and I went for a walk to work it off, despite shouts from Mo Duke 'We know where your going!!!!' The afternoon was rounded up by a huge raffle with Brian Munt in charge and a lot of people went home with nice prizes. To sum up – A great day out thanks to Ian and Carol and all their helpers.

ROBIN



Dear Brian,

I went down to a very nice and enjoyable afternoon at Isleport Farm at Highbridge on the afternoon of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August, so here's a small item for the newsletter is you want to rewrite or change please do so. On Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> August the sun was up, hardly a cloud in the sky, hard to believe considering the amount of rain the day before, so late morning I drove down to Isleport Farm which from Cheddar was only a 15 minute drive. The car park was in the field next to the show, a small tent was set up at the entrance where 2 people collected money and told you what would be going on, the afternoon was called hay and harvest working. On entering the main field there were some rather old tractors doing working jobs driving up and down cutting hay, turning hay and a very large tractor pulling a baling machine which was not baling yet, also in the top of the field was a large area where reed had been growing and was in the process of being cut with a reed comb, towed by a tractor with 4 people operating the set up leaving the reeds stood up right and tied. Also in this field were 6 very old grass cutters/mowers with side bar cutters, the oldest one being about 1920 and made up of bits from Austin cars, these were amazing contraptions. The 2nd field held a lot of stationary farm equipment and in the middle was a magnificent set up with a steam engine running a thrashing machine next to this a much smaller steam engine was running a baler being fed from the thrasher. A most enjoyable show as it was local and not too big you had time to stop and watch and talk. Although there was only a small turnout, one of the best I have ever been to.

JON IVENS

\*\*\*\*\* 29TH/30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT – PLOUGHING MATCH AT CHUDLEIGH KNIGHTON \*\*\*\*\*

The Devon branch of the David Brown Club were to have held their Annual Ploughing Match over this weekend. I arrived on the Friday to a warm and friendly welcome, which I thought was a good start to what looked like a promising weekend. There were a lot of different stalls already setting up, tractors and equipment were gathering around the field. Saturday saw the Ploughing men arrive and start their practice as the match was on Sunday. I met and renewed friendships from around the West Country, something that I enjoy and look forward to at all shows. The weather was brilliant until Saturday evening when the sky opened. This I thought was the turning point, for after a night's rain many of the Ploughmen failed to turn up. The match took place but with large gaps in the field. Due to the poor conditions, I did something I do not usually do – left early at about 1pm feeling very damp. I wish to express my appreciation to the organisers for allowing me to attend such a friendly event and hope that the next one will be better.

BRIAN LOVELL

\*\*\*\*\* FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY – W.D.T. & S.E.C. \*\*\*\*\*

For the July meeting of the West Dorset Club, the members met at the home of Brenda Cheney at Burton Bradstock situated on the Coast Road East of Bridport. The evening was an informal gathering at this bungalow set in a beautiful garden with cast views over Lyme Bay as far as Brixham in South Devon. A B-B-Q was well established when I arrived, with a large table adorned with a wide variety of delicious food for everyone to choose from. Brenda Cheney is the Vice-President of the West Dorset Club, who continues the family tradition within the Club. This gathering was for the purpose of making a presentation to the Mrs Vivien May who received a cheque in the memory of her late brother Geoff Pike, the then President for £300 on behalf of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. After responding to this gift Mrs May assured the members that this money would be put to good use at Weymouth. The evening concluded with a customary draw ably conducted by Mrs Caroline Rendell and her daughter Louise.

HENRY'S GUARDIAN

\*\*\*\*\* CLUTTON FLOWER SHOW – SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST \*\*\*\*\*

21 engines attended this show, a great turnout! There were also 12 tractors, vintage bicycles from the Veteran Cycle Club, classic cars, oil can display, milk churns and bottle displays, fairground rides, raffles/tombolas. There was also a display of railway photos and memorabilia including photographs of a Zimbabwean engine, 'Ingulungundulgu' or 'Bush Pig'! Tractors included a 1937 Allis-Chalmers model B running on a petrol/paraffin mix, the first tractor in the world to be sold with pneumatic tyres without the option of steel wheels. The cars consisted of a very rusty 1956 Land Rover 88' in the throws of being restored, a Bedford van and Dormobile and 2 Morris Minor 100's and a pickup. From the Bristol branch of the owners club was a Ford Cortina estate and saloon and a Ford Zodiac. Inside a large marquee were the competition entries including flower arranging, vegetables and fruit, photography, cakes and embroidery. Children's competitions were penmanship, decorated bottle, bookmarks, art, decorated plates, miniature gardens and pottery. The public were entertained by the Shepton Mallet Big Band and teas, coffees, cakes and refreshments were on sale. The weather was not too nice in the morning, which I think held back a lot of people, but a lot of people seemed to come past the engines. Some were not interested in engines at all, but had a look out of curiosity and there was a great number who stopped and read the exhibit boards. For the general public who don't know anything about stationary engines, these boards are very interesting, and I'd like to see one in front of every engine. All in all a good show! A nice gesture was the presentation to all exhibitors of commemorative plaques and thank you letters from the President of the Horticultural Society.

JONATHAN HOCKEDY - JUNIOR REPORTER.



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

**MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN.** Guest Speaker – Julie Dexter, giving a talk on the Social History of Coal Mining in the Radstock area from the late 1780's until 1923.

**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – SOUTH SOMERSET AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION CLUB.** Autumn 'Sortout' at Palmers fish Shop, Preston Road, Yeovil. For details ring Brian Jones on 01935 824543.

**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – CRANMORE CLEAROUT** Cranmore Station. For details ring 01749 880417.

**SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER – ANTI-FREEZE CRANK-UP AT NUNNEY CATCH TRANSPORT CAFÉ.** Café open for hot meal and drinks, usual raffle, prizes donated would be appreciated.

**THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – NEW VENUE – THE MINCE PIE CRANK-UP THIS YEAR WILL BE AT STON EASTON SPORTS CLUB.** This is only about one mile from The Old Down Inn towards Bristol. It will be sign posted. Hot mince pies, hot drinks. Bar will be open in the Club, usual raffle.

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

**1914 LISTER J** on skids £450. **BENTALL** Chaffcutter on wheels, restored £100. Ring 01380 830344 (Bratton, Wilts area).

**1940 STUART TURNER**  
model P5, 4hp, ex w.d, restored and on trolley, ready to rally £200 ono  
Ring Dave on 01225 761987  
Trowbridge area.

**PILLAR DRILL**  
Restored, would make good rally exhibit  
£50 ono. Ring Dave on 01225 761987  
Trowbridge area.

**WANTED**  
**HANDBOOK FOR BSA**  
Air-cooled engine,  
model 420. Please  
ring 01225 761987.

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

Complete with torch, nozzles, gauges, cutting torch and lines, no bottles £25. **INDEX ROTARY TABLE** hand V, 5" diameter, 4" chuck, self centre £80. 3 **LARGE HEAVY ENGLE PLATES** 7x6x6, 1 " thick. 6x6x8.5 thick. 6x6x6 1/2" thick guss 17"x 22" £10. **END MILLS** 1/16 – 1/4 £2 EACH. 5/16 – 7/16 £2.50 each. 1/2 - 9/16 £3 each. 11/16 at £2.75 each/ 3/4 at £4.50 each. 7/8 at £6 each. 1" at £7 each. Several long 7/8 end mills, cutting length 3 – 3 1/2" £7 each. Ring 01749 840413 Shepton Mallet area.

\*\*\* MENDIP MAYHEM – SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER \*\*\*

Many thanks to all who took part in organising and attending this very successful rally, we had a very good show of exhibits and car boots and the raffle and C.L.I.C stall were very well supported. As many of you know our friends from New Zealand are staying with us and this was their very first taste of a little English rally. They thought it was great and how everyone they met was so friendly. The churn is proving itself s it fetched in an impressive £77.81. The C.L.I.C stall made £125.22 and the raffle an amazing £173.50. Many thanks to Brian, Mary & Shirley for doing the raffle and our thanks go to all the team. We could not manage without you. The grand total for C.L.I.C was a fantastic £376.53. The Club had the proceeds from the car boot, which amounted to £23. We look forward to seeing you all again next year, same place, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September 2002, put it in your diary!

LINDA & ROGER PIKE

\*\*\*\*\* 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 happy one. Mr D A Candy from Shepton Mallet, Miss L Mumford of Warminster, Mr P Yeo and Mrs J Gilbert from Moorland, Bridgwater, Mr J K Siddorn, Bristol, Mr & Mrs S Squires, West Knoyle, Warminster, Mr & Mrs W T Marshall, Poole, Dorset, Mr B Mead, Batcombe, Shepton Mallet.