

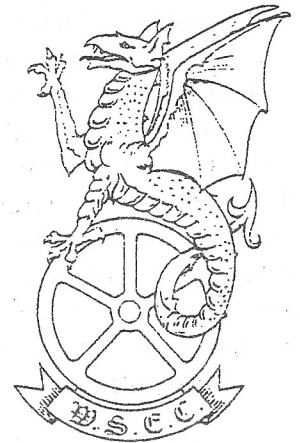


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

OCTOBER 2003

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 \*\*\*\*\*

Regular readers of this newsletter must have noticed that most of the articles submitted for publication are written by just two members, namely Eric Gay and Jonathon Hockedy. This is really a deplorable state of affairs when you consider we have at least another 350 members who do not contribute. So come on the rest of you, lets have some reports with different names on them to keep the newsletter interesting and to ensure it's continuity.

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

This year has seen some of our events move to new venues, the rally moved from Cheddar to Clutton and in the opinion of most that attended it was one of our best rallies yet. Also our Social evening moved from Cheddar to Frome, (because the Cheddar Football club wanted us to pay £100 to hire the alley) this again proved a huge success as it was supported by 44 members who enjoyed a very pleasant evening, the fish and chip supper supplied by a local chip shop was very well received indeed. So moving the venues for these events were without a doubt very well supported by the members despite doubters condemning the moves. As I write this report our Autumn Sortout is only one week away, and as this is also moving from Cheddar to Cranmore I can only hope it is as so successful as the other two moves, only time will tell. I have recently attended two crank-up's, one at the Ship and Castle Inn at Congesbury and the other at the Summerleaze Farm Shop at Wookey. The "Cranks at the Ship" is a brilliant crank-up run by Ian and Carol Skuse and their band of helpers, with the profits going to CLIC. The pub car park is full to capacity with engines of all makes and sizes from all parts of Southern England, plus tractors cars and motorcycles, Ian and Carol must be congratulated for putting on such a wonderful show which I know involves them in considerable personal expense. From myself and I'm sure also from all the other exhibitors thank you for having us. The other crank-up was at the Summerleaze Farm Shop (see Jonathon's report in this issue), this is put on by club member Steve Baker, although it does not attract the number of entries that Ian's does it is still a very good crank-up and deserves more support. This event is supported by the farm shop, and I can definitely recommend their bacon rolls which were available all the morning. Thank you Steve for organising this event and you can be sure I will be back next year when hopefully there will be more entries.

### **MAGNETO REPAIRS AND SPARES**

Any member requiring repairs to magnetos or dynamos contact Martin or Andrew on 0117 9675225. All repairs guaranteed. Spares available for most makes. Rewinds etc.



## **CLUB NIGHT AT THE OLD DOWN INN**

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

It was many years ago when we last had a visit from our old friend Arthur Clapp, Arthur had returned to give a talk on old toys. Many of our members must have remembered the last visit by Arthur as once again the room at the Old Down Inn was filled to overflowing with just over fifty members enjoying a wonderful evenings entertainment. Arthur showed us how he casts parts and makes moulds for the reproduction of parts to repair all types of toys. They range from Dinky toys through to very old tin plate vehicles from the very early nineteen twenties. Parts are made for these by spinning the metal on a lathe and pressed into shape with wooden formers, the results are stunning and the workmanship is first class. Arthur is self taught with no degree in engineering, just good common sense and lots of patience, looking at the parts brought along by Arthur for us to see it shows what can be done when one puts his mind to turning out replacement parts. Arthur gets toys sent to him from all over the world to repair, and as he said it not only the way he makes a living it is his hobby as well and he loves every hour he spends making and repairing the toys. Some of these he had brought along for us to see just what a state they were in when they arrived at his workshop in Warminster. One old vehicle that stood out was a large tin plate car that needed doors, wheels, mudguards and many more bits, and all this had to be made by hand and fitted, once all this had been done it would be sent to a painter so that the paint work could be matched up, this is a very time consuming job and one that Arthur does not undertake himself, but he knows a man that can. There were a good number of old toys brought along and members had a good time looking at them in detail, they brought back many memories of childhood, even for me as on the table was a Dinky toy Bedford tipping lorry, just the same as I had when I was just a wee lad, as well as one or two more that I could remember. Midway through the evening we had our raffle and a refill at the bar, and once again I had a hard earned pound extracted from me by some young lady. I thought I could extract money from club members when I ran the raffle many years ago but that woman could extract money from a beggar, (It's all in good fun Diana). Well with the raffle over (I did not win, I'm not going to buy any more raffle tickets, I bet my tickets fell out of the drum) it was now time for Arthur to give us a real nostalgia trip, for out of his box came toys of the past that most of us made and played with just after the war. The forked stick that we lads spent hours and hours looking for in the hedgerows and woods to make a catapult, and with a bit of practise one could become a very good shot. I bagged more than one pigeon for the pot when I was a lad. And who did not have a spinning top when you were a child ? A button on a loop of string or a round piece of cardboard with a loop of string made a spinning toy that gave hours of fun. Another little toy could be made from a cotton reel, a rubber band, a matchstick and a piece from the end of a candle, this made a toy tank, simple, but we would play for hours with two or three of those. A machine gun could be made from a piece of elder wood with a piece of spring steel taken from mothers old corsets. A bomb could be made from two bolts and a large nut and a box of matches, all good harmless fun that the children of today miss so much. How many could make a bow and arrow or a catapult today or a toy tank from a cotton reel ? I swear we had more fun than children do today, sat messing about on a confounded computer, I wish we could give them back the green fields that have been built over, just like we had when we could roam for miles and never come to any harm, but that was then and this is now, and time changes, and we cannot turn back time, if only we could. Well the evening came to an end and I'm sure that everyone went home with fond memories of childhood. Once again we had a wonderful evenings entertainment and a big thank you to all the members that attended, it makes all our work on the committee worth while when we get a full house at the Old Down Inn. To Arthur thank you for a great evenings entertainment.

**E.J.GAY.**

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

**FOR SALE** RUSTON 2YBA industrial engine. Vertical twin air cooled diesel. Rated 11hp at 1500 rpm. Compact, heavy (7cwt) item. Fully factory reconditioned unit, unused, dry stored since bought in 1986 (for £250 + vat) Complete with starting handle, instruction manual, spare parts list and spare injectors. Only lacks fuel tank and exhaust manifold. Generous offers invited. I need the space! Delivery possible if not too far from Bradford on Avon. Please ring Rob on 01225 862687.

**FOR SALE** Ford Anglia 100E. 1958. Fully restored mechanically and bodily. Resprayed in black 2 pack. Needs finishing (carpets). Bargain at £800. Ring 01749 342671 for further details.

**FOR SALE** Nissan Bluebird 1600. H reg 1991. Taxed. MOT. Excellent condition, tow bar, electric windows and sun roof, red with grey interior. For further details ring 01749 342671.



## CRANK-UP AT SUMMERLEAZE FARM SHOP SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

I mentioned last year that although over 30 engines were promised, only seven turned up. It seems that this year, a few more people have taken the hint, and there were 14 engines. The star of last years crank-up, Brian Symes Lister 8hp water feature, has now been repaired and water no longer squirts out from the water tank. As well as the engines there was a selection of tractors and commercials. A small crowd watched anxiously as a 'Blowers Transport' ERF flat bed lorry inched it's way through the gate. The tractors included one which last years exhibitors surely remember, A V8 Perkins- Engined Fordson Major Diesel, with a stunning turn of speed for a tractor. A Case 1H, Fordson Major Crawler, Allis Chalmers and the minute Colt tractor completed the line up. The Colt is powered by a 10hp Kohlar engine, and has a Hi-Lo ratio gearbox with 3 forward and 1 reverse gears, plus 3 PTO's. Built in about 1960, only 250 were manufactured, and of these only 20 are known in the country. Owned by G.D. Chambers, it was used to push electric milk floats in a dairy until 2002, and is awaiting restoration. However it is in full working order, and after taking a test drive, I can say it handles impressively well. With independently-braked wheels, it can turn in it's own length, and has the features of a tractor three times it's size. Moving on to the engines, there were 3 Lister D's, two Japs, a 2A and a 25B, a Petter A1, Ruston Hornsby PB, and a Lister Junior to name a few. Alan Vickery displayed his Ronaldson Tippet "N" type driving Lister Domestic and Argosy pumps. The engine is believed to be 1936, and generates 3hp. It was imported from Australia and built by the Australian Manufacturing Co, Victoria. There were unfortunately only 3 bootsale stalls, but a selection of weird and wonderful old tools and pieces of machinery on one drew in the crowds, and enticed a few hands to reach into pockets. The shop sold hot-dogs and bacon butties all day, and the shop was open for business, selling an assortment of wines and ciders, meat, fruit and veg, cakes and jams. As the exhibitors were packing up, and ruminating on an excellent crank-up, the Club was offered a large reel of rope by Pete Watts, which came home in our trailer to be unravelled, (only another mile to go). Another small crank-up, but a good atmosphere and great variety.

**JONATHON HOCKEDY**  
**WSEC JUNIOR REPORTER**

### A THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS FROM MARGARET APPLEBY

I would like to thank all the club members for their kind good wishes and get well cards after my fall in Falmouth. I would also like to thank you all for the bouquet of flowers, which were beautiful. I am now back home in the safe hands of Bill and hope to see you at the next Nunney Catch Crank-up.

Yours Sincerely,  
Margaret.

It was certainly good to see Marg up and about at the Club Social Evening and Skittle match at Frome Football Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Although Marg was a little unsteady on her feet and declined to participate in the skittles, I'm sure she enjoyed what turned out to be a very successful evening. We all sincerely hope you continue to improve and take part in future events.

B.J.B.

### NEW MEMBERS

The WSEC would like to welcome the following new members to our club and hope their membership will be a long and happy one. Mr P.F. Wilkins from Portishead North Somerset and Mr K Stevens and B. Cox from Wells. and Mr Martin Beard from the University of Bath.

### WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

Wanted a venue to hold the Mince Pie Crank-up on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December. (the day after boxing day). If any member knows of a suitable venue preferably with a hall where we can hold the raffle and serve mince pies etc, please let me know.

B.J.B.



## +++++ IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN TO ME +++++

I have owned my 2 ½ hp Amanco for more years than I can remember, and the poor old engine was beginning to look a bit sad. The paintwork had got bad and the magneto bracket that I had broken and stuck together with a product given to me by Mr Locktight when they came and gave us a talk about their products at the Old Down Inn many years ago, and this is still holding today. But as the years have passed I had got hold of a good replacement. The trolley that had served the Amanco well over the years was also in need of some work. So a total strip down, repaint, new mag bracket and a good overhaul of the trolley was planned. Now I have said before that wood and I do not get on well together, but I made up a new front steering beam and axle from hardwood, cleaned down all the other woodwork, repainted the wheels and put the whole lot back together. It looked quite good, so that was the start, next came the cleaning of all the engine parts, once this was done the paintwork was rubbed down, filled and primed. I had no trouble with the flywheels, I had no trouble with the crankcase or the odds and ends. The cylinder and the hopper was a different matter. Now the Amanco had always been an engine that liked to get it's own back, and this overhaul was no different. When I first bought the Amanco I was well and truly taken for a ride. The engine ran and ran well until water was put into the hopper. If you look back through your old newsletters you will find the story of how the Amanco was repaired by a very clever engineer and how many problems were got over, I will not bore you all by relating the tale again only to say the engine has run well and has never let me down at any show or rally. But it has always had a way of letting me know when it is not best pleased, and it showed this when I was repainting the cylinder and hopper. Now this unit is an awkward shape so after rubbing down it was tied to the centre beam in my shed and painted, after each coat it was again rubbed down and recoated, it had four coats of gloss applied when the Amanco struck. I had the cylinder block as I said tied to the roof beam of my shed, I had inserted a large spanner into the water hopper and fixed four pieces of multi stranded copper wire to this and tied it to the beam. It was impossible for the spanner to fall out of the hopper for to remove this it had to be turned 90 degrees, so I thought all would be well I was now applying the last coat of gloss and the cylinder looked a treat, I was doing the last stroke of paint when all four pieces of wire snapped and the cylinder crashed to the floor. I thank my lucky stars that the shed floor is made of wood, and the only damage to the block was a bent head stud, but my foot was another story, it had got in the way when the block hit the floor. I was lucky it did not break every bone in my foot, as it was I only suffered a badly bruised foot and toes. Now I had to start all over again with the paintwork, and this took a lot more time. I did not fix the block back onto the roof beam again, and I shall not be using copper wire again to hold anything, I have learned my lesson well and truly. But when I checked the breaking strain of the wire it was many many times greater than the weight of the cylinder block, and I had used four strands, so why did it break? Was it the Amanco getting it's own back yet again? Well the Amanco is now all back together and looking very nice, although I say it myself, and it started and ran as well as ever. I just hope it will control it's temper and stop getting it's own back.

ERIC GAY.

## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>** South Somerset Agriculture Preservation Club Sortout at Palmers off Bunford Lane Yeovil. (Opposite the crematorium) 8am start. For details ring Brian Jones on 01935 824543.

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>** Club night at the Old Down Inn. Guest speakers- Rosie and Jim. "UP THE CUT" A talk and slide show about a canal trip. The usual grand raffle. 8pm.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>** "Anti-freeze crank-up at Nunney Catch Transport Café. Hot food and drinks available. Usual grand raffle for club funds, prizes would be appreciated. Bring and buy goods for sale welcome. Come on make an effort.

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

Mary, Stephen and Carol Butler would like to thank all our friends within the club for their cards, letters and messages of sympathy received during their recent sad loss of Reg. And to the many friends for their continuing support. Thank you.