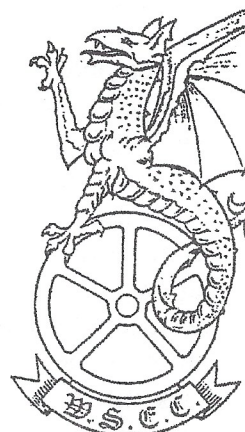


# **WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED**

OCTOBER 2005

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## **NEWSLETTER**



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

Good news for once. Despite rising costs of practically everything including postage the committee has decided not to raise subscriptions for the year starting 2006. therefore it will remain at £11 for a double membership and £9 for a single. Junior membership is still only £1 for the under 18's. At the moment the cost of the club insurance and the cost of producing and posting the newsletter is covered by the total subscriptions, it's only when these costs are not covered by the subs do we need to have an increase. The members have a lot to be thankful for due to the excellent way Jackie looks after the financial side of the club and long may she continue to do it. ( I think she would do a better job than Gordon Brown).

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

The Old Down Inn has once again changed hands and has a new landlord. This worried me as I did not know if we would still be welcomed as a club, as we have been for the last 29 years. However I have spoken to the new landlady and she has said we are very welcome to use the Old Down for our meetings as before, so that came as a relief to me. The fact that we have the use of the room completely free of charge, when most clubs have to pay for theirs, I would ask members to patronise the pub and buy a drink or two, to make it worth their while to light and heat the room for us. Despite being on the market for some time Gordon and Jackie have still not sold the Café at Nunney so they are making us welcome once again for the Autumn Crank-Up on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Gordon has also volunteered to hold the Mince-Pie Crank-Up at Nunney this year on December 27<sup>th</sup>. The café will be open for the customary hot mince pies and hot drinks but will NOT be cooking hot food. Our sincere thanks to Gordon and Jackie for welcoming us to this superb venue for our events. The skittle and social evening at Butler and Tanners social club at Frome was I think the best one yet. About seventy members and friends were present for the skittles and supper. This was followed by a very large raffle that took quite a while to get through. I would like to thank Margaret Simmons who sold a hell of a lot of raffle tickets, also thanks to Andrea Feeney who helped me with the raffle. Thanks must go to Robin and Jackie who captained the skittle teams and made sure that everything ran like clockwork. A special vote of thanks must go to Tony and Diana Davis who organised the food, Diana took the orders and the money for the food, and then with Tony collected it from the shop and then distributed it to the hungry members. Some members went a bit over the top with their table cloth, napkins, silver cutlery, and would you believe it? A candelabra. I won't tell you who it was because I don't want to embarrass Andrea and Martin. The highest gent's score was won by Ray Chandler and the highest ladies was Ann Harris, the wooden spoon was won by Michael Jennings and the highest junior member was Max Feeney. All in all it was a brilliant evenings entertainment without the hassle and dirty hands messing about with an engine. We have already booked the same venue for next year. See you there.

BJB

### **\*\*\*\*\* VINTAGE SORTOUT \*\*\*\*\***

**VINTAGE SORTOUT 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER** 8am onwards, Winchester Farm Cheddar on A371 to Wells. Stalls £5. buyers £1 For further details ring Colin on 01934 743411 Toilets and refreshments on site. Cheddar Valley Preservation Club



## **'IN THEM DAYS' By Andrea Feeney**

The other day Max asked me what it was like when I was a child, I would have liked to reply, "nothing much has changed," but he is not that naïve. Max is 8 years going on 18, I am a mere baby myself, that's my theory and I'm sticking to it! As a child I was brought up, in a small Somerset village, I say Somerset, as I am proud of my roots and regional accent. We had a river right by our house, a brook really. The dividing line of the county border was the river – one side of the river bridge was Somerset, the other Avon. "What's all that about," my Grampie used to say, "we live in Somerset." My father painted a white line on the river bridge; we used to put one foot in Somerset and the other in Avon. Baffling to some, but as children amusing. '*In them days*' we were easily pleased. My father used to grow vegetables on a smallholding, onions as big as footballs, carrots as orange as the sun, and runner beans as long as your arm, or so I thought so, but '*in them days*,' even the milky way and mars chocolate bars were huge – did they really shrink that much? '*In them days*,' we had a Rayburn, a poor mans Aga! My father had a small stationary engine that ran a saw, he used to cut all the wood for the fires on it. As kids we used to earn pocket money, normally a sixpence(tanner) by loading the wood onto an old pram (*dilly*) then push it up the hill to stack the logs outside the back door. One day being helpful children, we loaded the logs onto the Rayburn, the temperature dial quickly rose to very hot, we were so pleased, Mum was mad, she had all her washing airing on the rack above and big brown scorch marks adorned her beautiful white towels, and the acrid smell of scorching laundry was not nice. I can still feel her hand on my backside; I was the eldest and should have known better. Along the farm track every morning, you could see Angus the farmer loading milk churns on his trailer, with his trusty old tractor, a grey Fergie, he would bring the churns along for collection. That for me is time gone by. Milk churns are now sought after by collectors, and Fergie's drive around the show ring in the vintage section! Hang on , who said I was Vintage? Another vintage memory was, we had a huge wall surrounding our house, was it to keep us in, or keep the bad boys out? My father was very protective of his girls you see. Well, we used to gather and sit on the wall on Monday nights. Monday night was youth Club, up "the tin hut," (Village Hall), I can remember my mother shouting "get off that damn wall, you will get the pip". What in hells name is the pip? To this day it remains a mystery. My grandmother used to say the same strange thing if she saw us sitting on the damp grass. When we asked what it was, she used to say "you'll know when you get it. Answers, on a postcard please..... So you see Max, time really does change and my memories are crammed full of new age history. Or is it that I am really old?

## **THE WESSEX HEAVY HORSE SOCIETY** **AT TURNPIKE SHOWGROUND SHAFTESBURY** **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> 2005**

We woke up at 4am to hear heavy rain. Wendy said it will be a wet rally. However we set off from Wells at about 7-15 in the rain, arriving at 8-15, by which time the rain had stopped . about six engines had already set up and soon after more engines arrived, plus five Scammell heavy haulage ex military vehicles, six tractors – Fordson's, Fergie's, Internationals – several Classic Cars and one Bristol Bus. We set up the Fairbanks in a well laid out field and were welcomed by one of the show organisers Mike Horler, who explained to us he needed to make the show more interesting to the general public by including displays of stationary engines, tractors etc, this being their 23<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Horse Show. This formula seemed to work as about 10am the public started to coming into the site and continued to do so throughout the day. And good value they had too with about 70 heavy working horses arriving from all over the South west, and as far afield as Wrexham North Wales. All the horses turned out in their well groomed finery, especially noted were the Wadworths Brewery horses from Devizes – Wadworths being a major sponsor of this event. The skies cleared and out came the sunshine, and at about 12-30 Wendy and I took ourselves off for a wander around. We watched some horse judging, looked in at various interesting stalls and then came across Fred Biggs static display. It was a scene from a Thomas Hardy novel "The Mayor of Casterbridge" showing a young lady being covered in chaff from a winnowing machine. Next on to Alan Rogers with his display of farm and horticultural tools, then a quick look at the tractors, cars, and military vehicles. Wendy then spotted the beer tent. We felt it obligatory to support the sponsors so quickly popped in for a pint of Wadsworths best bitter each. Back to the stationary engine line up, about 28 engines on display such as Amancos, Listers, Bradfords, Petters, United Powell driving water pumps etc, and of course yours truly with the Fairbanks Bulldog, which ran without a hitch for most of the day. At about 5pm we started to pack up just as the skies clouded over and spots of rain started. Wendy and I headed for home after having a very enjoyable day.

**H.R.G. (HERBY GANE).**



## 20<sup>th</sup> LINCOLN STEAM AND VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY

With my interest in Television Outside Broadcast Trucks, I went to this rally on the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> August to crew for a friend who owns, and was showing, the restored mobile control room from Southern Independent Television. This unit, which is based on a Bedford VAL coach chassis, was built in 1968, using Marconi equipment, at the start of ITV colour transmissions, and has taken some 10 years to restore. It looked splendid in the original blue and white paintwork with Southern Cross Logo, and all the equipment worked throughout the show. This is a big rally, some say as big as Blandford Steam Fair, and has a huge tractor section as well as vintage cars, commercial and military vehicles. There is a fascinating Meccano and models display in the pavilion. The traditional fairground, mostly driven by Showman's steam engines, provides a background to the main parade ring, which is surrounded by Gaviolli type fairground organs, most powered by steam. There were so many steam engines, tractors, rollers, ploughing engines and showman engines of all shapes and sizes, that the sky was black with smoke. The water tenders and coal lorries tour the ground continuously dispensing the supplies necessary to keep these engines powered throughout the day. I managed to find time in the busy day to visit the stationary display, (they call them Barn Engines "Up-North"!!). There were about 250 engines, all the usual types (Note to Chairman: No Coventry Victor engines there at all !) but some particularly caught my eye. Mounted on a curtain sided lorry was an immaculate 1940s National horizontal gas engine, 12hp with a Lister "F" type 2hp driving a compressor used to start the National. Next to it, also on a lorry was a Crossley SS with hot bulb ignition built in 1904 and used to operate the Stainforth Canal swing bridge in it's working life. Moving along the lines of engines, I came to a 1943 Horizontally opposed twin cylinder 8hp Petter A which was driving a large deep- well pump with an interesting vertical slide mechanism. Then I noticed a very nicely painted (red) Gardener OVG 1 ½ hp installed in 1929 as a starting engine in Dunswell pumping station, which had a gear driven mag, and unusual open valve operating mechanism – the drive rods followed a very strange path! A ruston Hornsby type PS, which is a vertical 2 ½ hp engine from 1934, had a lot of polished copper pipe work, valves and two large gauges, it carried a brass plate advising on "precautions against crankcase explosions" (possibly used on board ship?). I spoke to a chap with a 1921 "Glasgow" 3hp engine, which has a single sleeve-valve system, which he said had only been made for 2 years, ran on petrol and was driving a vertical wood chopper/splitter which had a large flywheel at the top with a side mounted peg and connecting rod down to the substantial blade. Bouncing nicely, on a well constructed steel and chequer plate trailer, was a 1943 Lister CS 10/2 10hp, 650 rpm engine. Nearby was a "Premier" engine built in the 1940's by Perry Robinson motor engineers of Scarborough, it sounds like a local company but with a serial number of 649 they must have made a few, I wonder if there are any more in preservation. A well presented exhibit was a Fairbanks-Morse 2hp engine, dated 1926, which had spent 50 years in Southampton docks. It was driving a Lister water pump. The water outlet was piped up to a splendid model of a mill water wheel. The owner said he planned to connect a small generator or maybe a pillar drill to the water wheel as the next part of his display. A little further along the line was another unusual driven machine, a Wolseley WD1 was driving another WD1 but the driven unit has been carefully sectioned and painted to clearly show the workings, revealing the piston, crank and the big reduction gear off the crankshaft. Largest engine on the site was definitely a Mirrales-Bickerton & day 4 cyl in-line diesel, one of a pair which worked between 1935 and 1965 in Sheffield Waterworks driving drinking water pumps through a multiple V belt pulley. This engine was remarkably quiet and could be slowed so that the cylinders could clearly be seen, via the valve gear, firing one after the other. How do you move something that big? It was mounted on a steel skid base that fitted a roll on roll off skip lorry. The South Yorkshire trades historical trust also operate a 250 hp Blackstone brush 4 cylinder horizontally opposed diesel located at Rivilin Bank (Sheffield) booster pumping station. They will be running it later this year. Most, but not all the engines on display had log sheets or descriptions and were well restored and presented. There were some engines working but un-restored or work in progress. A few displays had associated items such as fuel cans, blowlamps tools etc. there were no sales stalls in the area but there was a display, from Frank Gelder, of fuel tanks and exhausts. He can supply these or make to order for most engines, and provide a range of other components such as splash guards, gaskets, valves, greasers etc. (Tel 01430 430374 between 6 and 10 pm.) The weather was good and it was a most enjoyable and interesting rally.

**RICHARD HARRIS.**

**<<<<<<<<<<<<< FOR SALE >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**

**FOR SALE** Brand new single phase electric motor. 2hp at 1500 RPM a bargain at only £80. For further details ring Ron on 01934 838691. (Congesbury Area).

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME** 30 years of Model Engineer Magazine. 1960's to 1980's. 2 very large boxes. For this free bargain ring Tom Randall on 01761 418926 evenings only please. Midsomer-Norton area.



## THANK YOU LETTERS

I have received today a letter of thanks from Jane Powell, Community Fund Raiser for the Children's Hospice in the South West, in which she has asked me to pass on their grateful thanks for the £134-81p I was able to send on behalf of the club to the Bristol office. Also she went on to tell me they now have £1.5 million which brings the total up to half-way to the target for the Charlton Farm Hospice. The complete letter will be available to all club members at any meeting we attend, also photo's and write up as printed in the Somerset Guardian. Thanks,  
**Tony and Diana Davis.**

## THANK YOU CLUB MEMBERS

Gloria Carp would like to extend a big thank you to all the club members who sent her cards and phoned during her recent illness. Gloria received over 50 get well cards from the members and friends. Gloria is now recovering, and has started to drive again, but she has to take it easy and not rush into things. She hopes to see you all soon at the Wessex events, and I'm sure like me, you will be glad to see her out and about again. Ed.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined our club, we welcome them and hope their membership will be a long and happy experience. Mr and Mrs R Alexander from East Dean, Salisbury. Mr Bill Williams from Windsor, Berkshire. Mr P Gregory from Timsbury, Somerset, and Mr Michael Upton from Emerson Green, Bristol.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The club would like to congratulate Mary Butler becoming a Grandmother on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Mary's time will now be taken up with her new role as "baby sitter"

The club would like to wish a very happy birthday to our Secretary Arthur whose birthday is on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. Many happy returns from all the members Arthur.

The club would also like to extend birthday wishes to the "Wiltshire Moonraker" Bob Hallam who celebrates his birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. Try and stay sober Bob.

Last but not least a very happy birthday to committee member Phil Marshall who has a birthday on November 9<sup>th</sup>. We all wish Phil many happy returns of the day. I don't know Phil's age except that he has had a free bus pass for the last five years.

<<<<<<<<<<<<< DATES FOR YOUR DIARY >>>>>>>>>>>>>

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>**. South Somerset Agriculture Preservation Society's **SORTOUT** at Bunford Lane Yeovil. Sellers 8am onwards. Buyers 9am onwards. Pitches from £5. Buyers £1. Ample parking Refreshments on site.

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>.** Club night at the Old Down Inn. Quiz Night. A visit by South Somerset club team for an inter-club quiz contest. We shall pick a team on the night and let battle commence. The usual raffle will be held after the quiz.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>**. “ANTI-FREEZE” Crank-Up at Nunney Catch Transport Café. The usual winter gathering of engines and bits for sale. Any exhibits welcome, vehicles, static displays etc. The Café will be open for hot food and drinks. We shall have the usual giant raffle, any prizes will be most welcome. Lets have a good turnout at this very popular venue.

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>**. “MINCE-PIE” Crank-Up this year will be held at Nunney Catch Transport Café thanks to Gordon and Jackie giving up a day of their Christmas holiday. Please note this time there will be no cooked food in the café, only the hot mince pies and sausage rolls provided by the club. There will be hot drinks on sale however. Lets have a good turnout for the last Wessex event of 2005, it’s amazing how quickly time flies. We shall be holding the usual grand Xmas raffle for club funds and any prizes donated will be most welcome.