

# Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. SEPTEMBER 1982

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## PLUMBING THE DEPTHS OF ENGINE HISTORY

Our engines chug into tomorrow with loving care; regrettably their manufacturers don't always survive the same passage of time. They merely end up as empty company names at the bottom of vast national and international concerns. I was interested to note that America's largest manufacturer of plumbing fixtures, (expected sales this year of 400 million dollars), had an unexpected familiar ring, Kohler & Co. On investigation it appears that the Company's family tree not only has heavy boughs of plumbing goods but also the odd branch of stationary engine. John Michael Kohler and Partner opened a foundry to make farm implements in 1873 in a small town north of Milwaukee and from thence to the Iron Farm Horse. That's an easy connection, but how on earth did they get into plumbing? Well, it seems Mr. Kohler had the idea of converting their iron horse troughs into bath tubs for farmers by coating them with enamel (I always thought the Americans were a shower!!!... Ed). I have rummaged for a photo, but couldn't find one; I bet Appleby Senior had it in Aladdin's cave along with our 1929 Rad. Cooled Kohler Generating Set, but alas, the treasure chest can only be opened during certain phases of the moon whilst two directors of Securicor, the family solicitor, and a medical practitioner are present. The medic died of snake venom when it was last opened so it seems the Newsletter will have to go to print without a picture. Oh well....!!!

Ken Appleby

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## FOR SALE

Finned Water Hopper for Wolseley WDII, good condition. Would make excellent baby bath for VERY YOUNG farmer.!!! Fully enamelled in Wolseley green. £15.00. Tel. Temple Cloud 52633 or contact Editor.

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## BEAULIEU 1982

"Let's go to Beaulieu on a Sunday morn"  
So up we got early at the crack of dawn.  
Thro mist and cloud to a perfect day  
And lots of engines in neat array.

We were all put in areas, ready marked out  
Small ones, large ones, short, fat and stout...  
Making a thunder all the day long  
To some of our ears 'tis a beautiful song.

Well, the sun it came out and turned us all brown  
Nowhere to be seen, a scowl or a frown  
Neat lawns and tarmac were ours for the day  
Not the usual struggle, mud, thistles, or hay.

But soon, as you know, its over and ends  
That 'once a year day' where we all meet our friends  
Then it's pack up once more, get into the car  
Home everybody, hope your not travelling far  
Heres to the next time, wherever you are.

Written to the rhythm of Sid's Lister A-type, under a large sunshade at Beaulieu Rally,  
by the Wiltshire Poetess Laureate, Marion Wilson.

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## THE LISTER D STORY

I am a Lister D-type, born in 1952. My engine number is 6936-DH2 and I give out 1½ brake horse power at 700 rpm. Alas, after years of faithful service, my ungrateful owner bought a Diesel engine and stood me out in all weathers, idle. I soon got in a right mess; seized up and even a bird nesting in my fuel tank. To my delight I was sold at Ridings Farm auction on 5th June 1982 to Mr. C.M. Hartnell. He totally stripped me down, found that I needed new parts, such as an oil filler, exhaust, magneto, throttle linkage, chain, and, of course, new gaskets. A new lick of Mid-Brunswick Green paint, careful adjustments, and here I am...AS GOOD AS NEW AS IN '52!!

C.M. Hartnell, Bristol

TORBAY STEAM RALLY, JULY 24th & 25th 1982

With the success of our rally at Yatton the previous weekend behind us, I was only too happy to go off to Devon for our annual holiday. With the thoughts of a bungalow overlooking the river Dart, and none of this canvas in a field and searching in ditches and over hedges for anything resembling an engine, I was really looking forward to a week without flywheels and oil-smoke...!! What happened...!!? In a large field barely a mile from our holiday home grew marquees and the smell of hot oil and smoke made our noses twitch, so like flies to a honey-pot we set off to Torbay Steam Rally organised by the Brixham Round Table and the Devon Traction Engine Club. This was the first Steam Rally to be held in the Torbay area and what a success it was! It was a hot sunny day and the public came in their thousands. We bought a programme which fell open to a page headed BARN ENGINES.

I viewed these with interest knowing that there couldn't be another rally in the area while we were here. The Ed. at least would be interested to know that there were two Victoria engines, no.1139 and 1102, both 5 hp. One was beautifully painted, the other unrestored. It was nice to see those two standing there side-by-side and I'm sure their owners had plenty of "notes" to compare during the weekend. Among a large selection of Listers, Petters, Rushton Hornsbys (spelt thus in the programme) and Bamfords were two Detroit Jumbos, both dated 1915, a 1913 7 hp Blackstone beautifully restored, a 1925 5 hp Challenge, as well as J.A.P's, Villiers, Stuarts, and Amancos. Small power engines exhibited were a Frank Hartop 1923 (the programme said 8 hp, but to me it looked more like 1½ hp), a Stuart Sandhurst, and a Britannia.

W.S.E.C. members whom I recognised were Mick Long, Alan Barratt, Ray Hicks and John Bowditch; there many have been more but perhaps they didn't all see my Wessex badge proudly displayed on my sundress (pin it on that Tee-shirt next time Diana!!! Ed.). It was an enjoyable rally, about the size of Camerton, with 25 steamers, 2 organs, 45 vintage cars, 22 motorcycles, 56 engines and various stalls, etc.

I didn't see any more engines all week, but couldn't restrain John from asking all the boatmen to lift their covers to show their modern diesels. As far as I was concerned, the most interesting one was a small steam boat being restored at Stoke Gabriel, on the Dart; this one was owned by a local boatman. It will certainly be a beautiful thing when it is finished and worth a visit if anyone is in that area. The rest of the week was spent relaxing in the sun, swimming in the sea, and writing notes for this report, so I didn't forget the W.S.E.C. after all!

Diana Emery

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WINSLEY CENTRE, PARENTS AND FRIEND'S ASSOCIATION

A letter had been received from the secretary of the above to thank our members who "so generously gave up their Saturday to be with us at our Fete. We were delighted to see you all - and your engines. You can be in no doubt as to the success of your visit which must have entailed a lot of hard work for you. Yours was a corner popular with both the children and the not-so-youngs, and your contribution to our effort was most encouraging. I am pleased to tell you that we reached a total of almost £1000. Naturally we are pleased for this will be a useful sum when we consider purchasing equipment for the new Day Centre at Winsley".

Engines present were Rod Dring's Bryan Donkin, Tony Jones' Amanco, Reg Butler's Stuart Turner, Mark Tilly's Wolseley, Derek Maybee's Lister and Robin Lambert's Ruston Hornsby driving a power hacksaw.

I.C. Cheadle, Hon. Sec.

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NEWSLETTER

Please send all articles, etc., as early as possible in the month following any Club meeting to Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol or telephone Temple Cloud 52633.

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THE GREAT YORKSHIRE STEAM FAIR, CASTLE HOWARD

After a 293 mile drive with about half a ton of cast iron behind the car, and an encounter with a pleasant but inquisitive Yorkshire policeman at 4 o'clock in the morning, we arrived at Castle Howard to be greeted by thick Yorkshire fog. However, as Friday drew on, and more and more exhibitors arrived, the fog relented and gave way to bright sunshine which remained all weekend. During Friday evening and Saturday each stationary engine and tractor owner was welcomed by the irrepressible Charles Cawood, aided and abetted by Fred McGuire, Chairman of the local National Vintage Tractor and Engine Club. The whole field was professionally laid out, with some 223 engines on show. Among the more unusual types were Heinrici, Tom Senior, Scott, Pilter, Wyvern, E.C.Co.Ltd., British Engineering & Electrical Co., Armstrong-Whitworth, Shanks, Johnson, Souter, Bates, Furnival and Glasgow. There were, of course, also the more common makes, from ½ hp to 16 hp, in all variations of shapes and sizes. It was refreshing to see so many different engines and to see such a high standard of restoration. The rally attracted large crowds,



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especially on the Sunday, and as the afternoon changed to evening, and the onlookers thinned out, the exhibits and their owners slowly packed up and headed for home. In summary, Castle Howard Rally was a most enjoyable, very friendly and well organised event set in the grounds of a beautiful stately home recently featured in the TV series "Brideshead Revisited". Everyone is made very welcome and should anyone feel like a longish drive next year it will be well worth it; see us for details.

Michael and Jane Cannon (who were too modest to mention the cup they won with their Tangye engine and pump...Ed.)

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#### YEOVIL FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

This two day event, promoted by Yeovil Car Club and sponsored by Mercedes-Benz (G.B.) Ltd., really lives up to its name. Apart from things that float on the sea, every form of transport was represented in abundance. Fourteen classes of cars making 370 cars in all to view, commercials, public service vehicles, custom cars, motor cycles, bicycles, fire engines, ambulances, military vehicles, tractors, traction engines, plus, of course, stationary engines. (How these are classed as "Transport" beats me! - but they are an added attraction). There were roughly 160 in number, but as one exhibitor observed, it was "a graveyard of Listers"..... as very few could be seen running at any one time. (Obviously a Dursley-made rally entry ticket Rally...Ed.). For anyone more interested in aerial forms of travel, there were ample flying displays over the showground on both days from Westland Helicopters, Richard Goode Aerobatics, Marlborough Pitts Special Aerobatics, Hot Air Ballooning and Bath Travel selling rides in their Helicopter. Plenty of other attractions adorned the field for the family, such as the fair, tractor pulling, numerous trade stands and the Autojumble which was situated too close to the Stationary Engine Section for the comfort of the "Engine Widows"!!!

Seriously though, apart from the slightly inclement weather, a most interesting weekend.

Jackie Lambert

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#### SALE REPORT

This widely advertised sale at Pilton, was of considerable interest to all collectors of domestic and agricultural bygoners. The stationary engines on sale were many more than had been advertised; some were well restored, ready for rallying; others were rough or "as found". Prices were reasonable, here are some examples.

Lister 2½ hopper cooled	£50	Villiers water cooled	£21
Lister 3 hopper cooled	80	Wisconsin 4-cylinder	60
Lister D with pump	31	Wolseley WDII	25
Lister T on trolley	70	Norman twin cylinder	25
Petter M on trolley	65	Norman twin cylinder	40
Petter M 6 hp on trolley	130	Stuart 2 hp c/w pump	45
Petter air cooled twin	30	Avon Drag Saw, complete	110
Ruston 3 hp PB	85	Avon Drag Saw restored	200
Ruston vert. PT	70	Bradford 2½ hp, restored	160

The Furnival "Empress" open crank hot-bulb gas engine, star of the sale, was withdrawn at £700, and is believed to have subsequently been sold after the day, privately. Also a National Gas engine which I believe we have seen before in another sale in "as found" condition, realised £60. Other items of interest were:- Climax No.2 water pump - £69; Lion Evans pump - £42; Manns pump - £14; and B.S.S.pump - £15. The following tractors made these prices:- Massey Harris - £450; 1940 Fordson Standard - £150; 1951 David Brown - £50; while an Oliver 80 was withdrawn at £500. An interesting item was a Baker's hand cart (no road tax or running expenses!) which made £180. Generally, this was a good sale, easy parking, no long queues at the pay desk.

L. Emery

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#### FOR SALE

Four Lister D-types, (1 petrol/kerosene), £20 each o.n.o.; two Lister A-types, hopper cooled, £50 each o.n.o.; two Bernard WO-types, one with pump £40, the other £25; Wolseley WDII £30; Petter A-type £20; Godwin OB pump with many brass fittings £40.

Mr. P.R. Hartnell, 6 Princes Place, Bishopston, Bristol 44358.

Commer 18 cwt.van, L reg., side loading door, tow bar, taxed. MOT Ideal rally van. £225 o.n.o.

Ray Chandler, Bristol 835731.

Lister D-type, 1950'ish. Complete, restorable £15.

Roy Cox, 24 Uphill Caravan Park, Uphill, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset.

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#### FOR SALE (cont)

Two-stroke petrol engine, tools and equipment, due to bereavement. Offers to:-  
Mrs. Savage, 17 Seend Cleeve, Seend, Melksham. Tel. Seend 764.

#### WANTED

Information on the Keynsham Engineering Co. who made mowers during the 1930's.

Mr. G.J.O. Wallis, 7 Fourth Avenue, Filton, Bristol. Tel.697815 evenings.

Sawbench, 24-36" blade, also engine to drive same, any make, together or separately. 1½-3 hp.

Mr. D. Target, Stratton-on-Fosse 232365.

Large cast-iron or steel frying pans, must be in good condition and 12"-18" in diameter.

Tony Jones, 57 Marsh Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Also WANTED are more contributions to this Newsletter to enable it to survive. Rally reports, restorations, hints and tips to pass on, etc. Even if you don't think your spelling/grammar is good enough, don't worry as we can sort it all out into your basic thoughts! (I think!!).

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 3rd. "Full Quart Crank-Up" in the car park of the Full Quart Public House, Hewish, Nr.Weston-Super-Mare, commencing at 10.00 a.m. 40 engines plus tractors, etc.

October 24th "Steam Day" at Dean Forest Railway Society., Norchard Steam Centre, Lydney, Glos. Stationary engine entries to J.White, 59 Claverham Rd., Yatton, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Yatton 833879.

#### CLUB EVENTS

October 25th Film Evening. Steam Rallies and Restoration by John Forward at the Old Down Inn, Emborough.

November 27th Club Dinner & Dance at the Masonic Hall, Frome, Somerset. The application form was included with last month's Newsletter. Please complete and send as soon as possible to Diana Emery with your remittance so that we can advise the caterers of the numbers involved. Music this year is by Sirocco, a local group with a repertoire to suit all tastes. Admission £5 each. Arrive at 7.30 for an 8pm start.

November 29th "Kennet and Avon Canal", an illustrated talk by our old friend, Bob Scudamore.

December 4th Jumble Sale at St. Peters Church Hall, Westfield, Radstock. This is a very important fund raising event to help finance the subsidising of the Dinner and Dance of the previous week. Show your appreciation of the evening by coming along and/or bringing any jumble, old toys, book and especially bric-a-brac to sell for Club funds. If you can't come. please send. Doors open 2 pm promptly. Hall usually open from mid-day to helpers.

THERE WILL BE NO Club Meeting in December for obvious reasons!!

January 31st\* The Crofton Society, a talk on the Pumping Station, its Beam Engines, etc.

February 28th The Annual General Meeting at the Old Down Inn, Emborough. Come along and help choose the new committee, voice your opinion on the running of the Club.. and pay your 1983 subscriptions!

March 28th \* Diesel Engines, a talk by Mr. Dry of Bristol.

April 25th \* Not yet decided.

May 23rd \* "Going Dutch", a talk on rallying the continental way by Pete Steele of Devizes.

June 27th Another of the popular "Crank and Buy" meetings in the slip road next to the Old Down Inn.

\* means subject to confirmation

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BEST WISHES (even if perhaps somewhat belatedly, due to printing deadlines) for a speedy recovery to our previous Chairman and Water Vapour engine convert, Rod Dring, whom we have just heard is suffering from a severe case of back-strain. Get well soon Rod, the rallyfield is missing you.

STUART ASHMAN : MOORLEDGE FARM COTTAGE  
KNOWLE HILL  
CHEN MARENA.